

## International observers leave Hebron

TEL AVIV (AFP) — International observers left the massacre town of Hebron on Monday, ending their three-month mandate to monitor events after the February killing of more than 30 Muslims there. About 90 observers from the Temporary International Presence in Hebron flew out of Tel Aviv international airport to their home countries of Italy, Denmark and Norway. Sixteen of the members left earlier, while 10 stayed behind in Hebron to clear up administrative matters, spokesman Bjarne Soerensen said. At Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) insistence, the 116 observers were deployed in the town on May 8 after the massacre. "TIPH believes it had nearly fulfilled its mission in Hebron, only a few points are still unsolved," Mr. Soerensen said last week. He referred to efforts to reopen the Ibrahimi Mosque, where a Jewish soldier killed more than 30 worshippers on Feb. 25, and the town's vegetable market near a Jewish settlers' district. Many Hebron residents expressed fear that the Israeli army would resume heavy-handed measures after the TIPH departure.

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## Yemen denies allowing Jews to Israel

SANA (R) — Yemen on Monday denied reports that negotiations were under way to bring Yemen's remaining Jews to Israel. "Yemen is not allowing its Jews to go to Israel directly or indirectly," Yemeni official in Sanaa told Reuters. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, asked about news reports that Yemen was prepared to let its few remaining Jews go, said on Monday: "I heard this morning same as you. I know there are negotiations being conducted." About 1,000 Jews still live in Yemen, a Yemeni official said last year. Almost the entire Jewish community of 45,000 migrated to Israel in an early 1950s airlift but Sanaa has consistently denied reports it facilitated this or other departures. Yemeni Jews are citizens enjoying the same rights and obligations as other citizens. Like other citizens, they have the right to travel anywhere in the world except Israel, the official said. Yemeni officials told Reuters in Sanaa last year that the government could not stop Yemeni Jews from travelling to Israel if they did so through another country.

# King hosts Rabin, expresses confidence peace that transforms people's life will be achieved

## HM underlines distinction between possible visits to Jerusalem and Israel

### Rabin affirms commitment • Christopher unveils move to help Jordan

From Nermene Murad in Aqaba

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein held a landmark summit with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin here on Monday and said afterwards he felt confident of bringing about a peace that would put the suffering of war and conflict behind and herald a new life for the people.

"We are friends and partners moving with determination, vision, commitment towards building the foundations for a comprehensive peace in the region," the King told a press conference to be held jointly with Mr. Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who also attended the Aqaba summit.

"I am very happy to have this opportunity once again to reiterate what not only I feel but I am proud the overwhelming majority of people in Jordan feel in terms of a commitment to peace and the future—that is the 'right' of generations to come to enjoy and protect and thrive under," said the King.

King Hussein sought to stress the distinction between his intention to visit the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem and Hebron as "a Hashemite, Muslim, Jordanian head of state" and visiting Israel as a head of state.

The King said that there were "two dimensions" to his answer in response to a question on when he will visit Israel.

"One is obviously the invitation I received from the

(Continued on page 7)



Israelis cheer His Majesty King Hussein as he takes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on a cruise through the Gulf of Aqaba after a summit meeting on Monday (AFP photo)

## France congratulates Israel and Jordan

PARIS (AFP) — France congratulated Israel and Jordan Monday for moving towards normal relations, as the two countries opened their first border crossing, and direct air and telephone links. The confidence measures "are of a kind which will help development of Israeli-Jordanian talks and strengthen peace efforts in the Middle East," said foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duquennoy.

Turkish jets hit Kurds in Iraq

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish jets bombed a Kurdish rebel camp across the border in northern Iraq on Monday, the fifth such attack since July 26. The air strike took place in the Sinat region, some 15 kilometres from the Turkish border, the military said. The statement said the air strike caused casualties but it did not give details. The previous air strikes killed 280 Kurdish rebels, according to the military statement.

Kabul demands U.N. observers

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghanistan called Monday for the stationing of United Nations observers to monitor the flow of foreign military assistance to rival factions engaged in a bloody struggle for power. The U.N. should appoint observers and devise a mechanism to monitor the war-ravaged country's borders, Afghan President Mohammad Rabbani's special envoy Masood Khalil said in a news conference here. Mr. Khalil reiterated Kabul's line that its northern neighbour, Uzbekistan, was helping the militia of ethnic Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum. "The flow of foreign military help is worrying us," he said.

## Christopher sees long road ahead for Israel, Syria

QAQABA (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after talks with Israeli and Syrian leaders, said on Monday that both countries still "have a great distance to go" to make peace.

Speaking during a groundbreaking Israeli-Jordanian summit in Jordan, Mr. Christopher said his meetings this week with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "have begun to lay the groundwork for progress towards peace."

"During this trip I had a good meeting with Prime Minister Rabin not long after I arrived on Saturday night, and then yesterday I met for five hours with President Assad on breaking the deadlock in Israeli-Syrian talks.

"I was not expecting substantial progress during this visit by Christopher. I don't suppose there will be a sudden breakthrough in negotiations with Syria," Mr. Rabin said before the meeting.

"The continuation of Christopher's visits is very important to clarify each side's positions and to close the gap between us, which is still wide."

"The Syrians have a great desire to reach peace but the problem is the price they are willing to pay."

"I do not despair of ever reaching peace with Syria but it won't happen tomorrow."

A senior U.S. official told reporters that "for the moment, I can tell you that we are returning to Washington tomorrow."

Mr. Rabin made his remarks during the press conference when he was asked whether Mr. Christopher would return to the United States Tuesday if he did not obtain a positive Israeli response to Syrian proposals.

"Mr. Christopher was certainly not expecting all problems to be solved during this visit," Mr. Rabin said.

"So it is not impossible that

for a comprehensive Middle East peace.

"I know that President Assad feels the need to move towards that objective and has made that commitment. So it is our hope that we will see progress on all tracks leading to the comprehensive peace that we seek," the King said.

Mr. Rabin termed Mr. Christopher's shuttle important in clarifying positions.

"The gaps between our positions and the Syrians are still deep and broad," Mr. Rabin told Israeli reporters later.

But he added: "Syria wants peace, the problem is the price, the timing, the timetable."

The Syrian government daily Tishrin said Monday Israel was refusing to respect international law and U.N. resolutions demanding its withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, which would lead to "fair and comprehensive peace" in the region.

The paper said there was "nothing on the horizon" to give hope for such a peace settlement, because Israel "is still manoeuvring to get round international resolutions and make separate deals with the Arabs" which undermine the goal of peace.

The Syria Times daily said Monday there were "no grounds for optimism" following the Christopher-Assad talks.

The paper branded the Israeli position as "intransigent," and said "Syria is not in a hurry and it will not stand in a queue begging for peace."

Mr. Assad presented Syria's views and stressed the seriousness about working to achieve the objective of the peace process, particularly to Mr. Christopher's complaints about the fundamentalist group Hizbullah but did not give him "any set

sign of a breakthrough. In Aqaba on Monday, King Hussein said he hoped

(Continued on page 7)

## Rabin, Arafat to meet on snags

CAIRO (Agencies) — A summit meeting between Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israel's prime minister is being worked out to overcome persistent snags in implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord, the chief PLO negotiator said Monday.

Nabil Shaath said the meeting could be held Wednesday, Israel Radio reported.

Mr. Arafat would meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the Erez crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

In Aqaba, Mr. Rabin was likely to meet Mr. Arafat at the Israel-Gaza border on Wednesday.

"It is very possible that we shall meet, not just me but an Israeli group, with Arafat and a group, at the Erez checkpoint on Wednesday," Mr. Rabin told a news conference. "It is not completely finalised."

Dr. Shaath, here to negotiate a broadening of the autonomy pact between the

two sides, complained that major parts of the accord signed in May granting autonomy to Gaza and Jericho still have not been implemented.

He accused the Israelis of trying to shunt aside such issues as release of Palestinian prisoners, passage between Jericho and Gaza, and control of crossing points into the self-rule zones.

"These issues have to be discussed on the highest level because if these problems are not solved, the whole peace process will not move," he said.

An Israeli official said Monday Mr. Arafat and the 18 members of his governing national authority will be issued special passes by Israel to travel between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin last met on July 6 in Paris, where they received a U.N. peace prize.

Israel agreed in its May 5 accord with the PLO to set up "safe passages" for Palestinians to travel between Gaza

and Jericho.

But the routes have not yet been established, and Mr. Arafat has complained that he cannot get to Jericho from his headquarters in Gaza.

He accused the Israelis of trying to shunt aside such issues as release of Palestinian prisoners, passage between Jericho and Gaza, and control of crossing points into the self-rule zones.

His only visit to the town was by an Egyptian air force helicopter on July 5.

Hannan Jeshurun, spokeswoman for Danny Rothchild, said Mr. Arafat and the council members would get special travel passes "in the near future ... to go to Israel and the West Bank and Jordan."

General Rothchild is Israel's special coordinator for the territories and chief negotiator in the Cairo talks.

Dr. Shaath complained the holdup in implementing the accord was hindering the PLO's ability to negotiate and "weakening the Palestinian leadership in front of its own public."

Gen. Rothchild said that the problems were still being worked on by several Israeli-PLO committee and added: "They are doing the best they

can in order to finish."

Dr. Shaath said the Israelis agreed to move forward on some of the problems after Mr. Arafat's meeting Saturday in Alexandria with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He also said Israel had calmed Palestinian fears that the Jordan-Israel accord, which assigns a special role to Jordan in protecting Jerusalem's Islamic holy places, would challenge Palestinian claims in Jerusalem.

Israeli officials assured him that the negotiations on the final status of the Holy City would be "only between the Palestinians and Israel," Dr. Shaath said.

The PLO negotiator said he hoped the present negotiations in Cairo could finish this week on the final issues of transferring control of taxation and tourism to Palestinians throughout the West Bank. Gen. Rothchild said he was uncertain when the talks would be completed.

## Peres Lebanon flareup over, but attacks continue

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday declared the recent series of attacks on the Lebanon's border over and gave Syria credit for reigning in pro-Iranian Hizbullah guerrillas.

Mr. Peres, speaking to reporters on board U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's airplane, also said that further progress had been made in peace negotiations with Syria.

Asked about the violent incidents pitting Israel against Hizbullah in South Lebanon, Mr. Peres said: "The fact is, it's over."

He said that the Israelis had told Mr. Christopher that Syria was in a position to stop the shooting. Asked if Syria pressured Hizbullah to stop the violence, Mr. Peres said:

"We feel there must be a Syrian contribution to end this story."

He said he thought that Syria acted because "they're trying to create the conditions which are necessary to continue the negotiations" with Israel that are being mediated by the U.S.

"I think it's an important gesture to continue the peace negotiations," he said.

On the status of negotiations between Syria and Israel, which have been the focus of Christopher's trip to the region this week, Mr. Peres said: "My impression is further progress was made."

But he refused to give any details and stressed that "we are not at the end of the road. There is still real work to be done."

Hizbullah fighters mean-

trant on all sides.

Syria, with 40,000 troops in Lebanon, holds sway over its neighbour and controls arms supply routes from Iran to Hizbullah.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn raid on the Rashid post at the edge of the western sector, in a border enclave Israel holds in South Lebanon.

Security sources said SLA gunners of Israel's surrogate SLA militia responded with Howitzer barrages on villages of Hafez and Yater facing Rashid outside the "security zone."

Israeli tanks deployed near Rashid also took part in the retaliatory bombardment, said the sources.

There was no report of casualties from Kafra and Yater.

## Saddam urges Iran to repatriate Iraqi prisoners, planes

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein urged Tehran Monday to free Iraqi prisoners held since the 1980-88 conflict between the two states and to return to Baghdad planes he sent to Iran for safekeeping during the Gulf war.

Only then, he said, "would relations be put back on the right track."

The Iraqi president's remarks came in speech to mark the sixth anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

In excerpts carried by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) and monitored in Cyprus, President Saddam said Iran had "twice been manipulated by the enemies of the Arabs and Islam."

The first time, he said, was when "the Tehran rulers waged a war that lasted for eight years... then kept Iraqi prisoners even though we had released all theirs."

He said Tehran rulers later demonstrated "their blind animosity" by refusing to send back planes Iraq sent to Iran for safekeeping when U.S.-led coalition forces attacked Iraq and evicted its army from Kuwait during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

"Iraq's door for honest relations between Muslims and neighbours was and will remain open to everybody, including Iran," he said.

Iraq says it won the 1980-88 war against Iran and celebrates "Victory Day" on Aug. 8, which is when a U.N. sponsored ceasefire took hold.

Iran and Iraq have exchanged more than 75,000 prisoners of war since the end of the war, but the International Committee of the Red Cross says that there are still around 20,000 Iraqi soldiers in Iran and at least 1,000 Iranians in Iraq.

Iraq claims it sent 170 planes to Iran, but Iran said there were only 27. Iraq had said it will keep the planes as partial payment for billions of

dollars in war damage it is seeking from Baghdad.

A newspaper published by President Saddam's eldest son, Uday, said on Sunday there was no sign the U.N. Security Council would ease curbs on its stringent trade blockade on Baghdad.

"Nothing has happened so far to indicate readiness of the superpowers to take unilateral actions to ease or lift the embargo," the newspaper, Babel, said in an editorial.

"The same thing applies to the other states which have been sending their delegations and businessmen to discuss cooperation with Iraq when the sanctions are lifted — but not before."

Sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, prohibit Iraq exports of oil — virtually its only source of foreign earnings — and imports of anything except food and medicine.

The usual view of Iraq's state-controlled media was reflected in Al Thawra newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, which said sanctions had failed to humble Iraq and support for them was crumbling outside the United States.

However, Babel doubted the sincerity of countries that have questioned U.S. policy — such as France and Russia — but were not willing to give stronger support to Iraq. It warned against using Iraq as a "card in the market of international bargaining."

Sanctions are reviewed by the Security Council every two months, with the next session in September. Britain and the United States have been the most adamant about refusing any easing of sanctions.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday said he would keep sanctions in place, accusing Iraq of encouraging attacks on the U.N. and relief workers.

## Hizbullah — Israel's unrelenting enemy

By Nadiem Ladki

Reuters

BEIRUT — As the barbed wire comes down on Middle East frontiers and former enemies end decades of hostility, the militant Hizbullah movement has emerged as Israel's toughest and most unrelenting enemy.

It is a role the Iranian-inspired group cherishes most.

U.S. calls for its defeat and Israel threats to "crush its skull" have done nothing to shake the guerrillas' holy war against the Jewish state.

Hizbullah says peace with Israel is impossible and the state must be wiped from the map.

Rallying to their war cry of victory nr martyrdom, Hizbullah guerrillas have killed 12 Israeli soldiers and wounded dozens in South Lebanon this year, the latest victims being an officer and a soldier killed in an ambush on Saturday.

They blasted northern Israel with rockets twice in eight hours over the weekend, making good their threats to make Israeli civilians pay if civilians in South Lebanon are hurt.

Israeli planes bombed an apartment building in South

RAMEH — When the 21-year-old soldier decided his older sister visiting from the United States was stain on the family honour, he killed her with 20 shots from his assault rifle.

Police said Hussam Bassam declared he was driven to the murder by the 38-year-old's dyed blonde hair, miniskirts and general attitude of challenging Druze traditions.

Her father would not accept condolences, explaining that the death was akin to the amputation of an injured finger.

The tragedy in this pastoral Arab village focused attention throughout Israel and the occupied territories on honour killings, a centuries-old form of murder that had traditionally been swept into the family closet.

The extent of the problem is difficult to gauge. But the public response this indicated things may be changing in Arab society.

Family honour must be redefined and a system set up "whereby such killings will be totally unacceptable and abhorred rather than

accepted," said Hanan Ashrawi, a former Palestinian spokeswoman now focusing on human rights.

In traditional Arab societies, family honour rises or falls according to the women's personal and social behaviour as defined by rigid moral codes.

The Druze are considered especially rigid and secretive about their social traditions. The Druze are one of the few Arab groups that serve in the Israeli army.

Family honour killings are tacitly accepted, and many are disguised as suicides or accidents. Few statistics are available, only about five such deaths are recorded yearly by the social and welfare ministry among Israeli Arabs.

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## Princess Basma receives

## Lady Graydon at QAF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday received Lady Graydon, wife of Sir Michael Graydon, chief of the British Air Staff, at the headquarters of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

Lady Graydon, who was accompanied by Michael Bell, the British air attaché

in Jordan, was briefed on the social and economic development activities implemented by QAF through its more than 40 community development centres. Lady Graydon was also briefed on the activities of the Arab Association for Women and Development as well as the Jordanian National Committee for Women, both of

which are hosted by QAF. Also present were representatives of the preparatory committee for the 1995 International Conference on Women, and the Jordanian Save the Children Fund, who talked about the activities of their groups.

Princess Basma discussed the preparations taking place for the women's conference scheduled to be held in Beijing in 1995, pointing out that Jordan was the first Arab country to submit its country paper for the conference.

Lady Graydon expressed her admiration of the Jordanian non-governmental sector in achieving development, especially in the area of women in development.

## Minister issues new import/export regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Monday issued a new import/export regulations due to take effect Aug. 25.

The regulations issued in compliance with the export and import law, exempts goods exported from Jordan from requiring export permits, with the exception of goods with an assessed value exceeding JD 1,000 exported to countries with which Jordan has commercial agreements and protocols.

These countries are Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Oman, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Kuwait and Russia.

The regulations also exclude goods re-exported after the completion of customs clearance procedures and whose value is more than JD 1,000, taking into consideration that they are re-exported for repair or refill

reasons.

The new regulations stipulate that fruits and vegetables, which do not require export permits regardless of their value, should be exported in accordance with regulations provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

They also call for coordination between the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Commerce Department and the Customs Department to provide statistical information on the exported goods.

The new regulations will allow the export of goods of Jordanian origin without the need to refer to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to obtain permits and will make it possible to export goods with only the approval of the authorities concerned, as is the case with agricultural products.

They also prolonged the period of export permits to six months instead of three for goods that require such permits.

The regulations also exclude the export of specified goods to certain institutions. These goods are leather products allowed to be exported by the Jordan Tanning Company; petroleum derivatives, mineral oil and gas cylinders, which can be exported only by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC); black cement which can be exported only by the Jordan Cement Factories; and gun powder, explosive materials and raw phosphate which can be exported only by the Jordan Phosphate Company (JPMC).

The regulations specified commodities and goods that require a recommendation before being exported. They include basic food commodities such as wheat, sugar, rice, milk and dairy products, poultry, olive oil, biscuits and sweets. These goods require the approval of the Ministry of Supply.

The export of sheep, goats and cows require the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, and precious metals and gold and gold currencies require the approval of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), according to the regulations.

## Volunteer team helps handicapped in remote areas

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of volunteers is exerting strenuous efforts to serve the handicapped in all remote areas of the Kingdom, according to Sharifah Nofah Bint Nasser, who heads the team.

Sharifah Nofah said the group of volunteers include 12 experts in special education, psychiatric health,

archaeology, languages, nursing, community health and business administration and was set up at the University of Jordan to alleviate the suffering of the handicapped and to work on integrating them into the society.

She said the team had organised several working camps in remote areas.

The team visited centres

for the handicapped in these areas and carried out voluntary works at these sites such as painting, cleaning up gardens, equipping game halls, organising lectures to improve the efficiency of teachers and instructors and educating families of handicapped persons on services the handicapped require.

In addition, said Sharifah Nofah, the team organised



The Ma'an Folklore group

## Curtains down, curtains up, festivals run back to back

By Angham Tamimi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the final curtain drew on the 13th Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts many points of interest raised during the 19 days and nights of festivities deserve critique.

The mayor had insisted on the festival attracting a share of the festival's income.

On the heels of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts the curtain was raised for the fifth Fuheis Festival Sunday morning.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan opened the festival by saying that the people of Jordan, equipped with planning, dedication, education and work, could absorb modernisation without sacrificing "our original values."

Such activities as the Jerash and Fuheis festivals, said Prince Hassan, prove that Jordan is capable of introducing the best even during the most trying times.

Sunday night's festivities included the performances of three Jordanian folklore groups: the Tafleeh, Azraq and Ma'an folklore groups.

The Tafleeh group sang six songs, most of which were dedicated to His Majesty King Hussein. Dressed in traditional Jordanian costumes and accompanied by tablas and qitas, the all male group performed one of its famous sword dances.

Founded in 1992, the Tafleeh group seeks to revive Jordanian cultural traditions, as well as handicrafts such as embroidery and sewing of folkloric dresses.

The Azraq group wearing non other than blue costumes to accompany the group's name, sang and danced before an audience of nearly 2,000.

Founded in 1992, the 36

member group took the role of introducing Jordanian folklore to the Fuheis Festival audience.

Participating in all the national and several international festivals, the Ma'an group, accompanied by the old, shabbaba, and qitra, Arab musical instruments, entertained the young and old with several shows of Ma'an's folkloric tradition winding their swords and rifles with precision.

The group was founded in 1981 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. "Ten years ago, it comprised 14 members only, but now it includes 28," Abbas Hussein, founder and director of the group told the Jordan Times.

The Ma'an group performed at the Oritz Festival (Tunis) in 1983, Ismailia Festival (Egypt) in 1989, Busra Festival (Syria) in 1992, and Hadash Festival (Baghdad) in 1993. They also were invited to perform in Madrid to celebrate King Hussein's birthday last year at Jordan's embassy ceremonies there.

The Fuheis Festival will host several Arab artists during its 10-day activities.

Although smaller than the Jerash Festival in setting and programme, the Fuheis Festival concentrates on the traditional aspects of our Arab World.

Second is the discussion

## FUMEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Jordanian vocalists Sihani Al safadi, Hala Hadi, Ruwaida Al 'Aas, Isma'il Khader, Mohammad Abu Gharib, 'Amer Al Kiswani, and Rami Shafiq at the main theatre, off the Greek Orthodox Convent at 21:00.
- ★ Seminar in Arabic entitled "The Effect of Majed Al Attwan on Jordan's Contemporary History" with the participation of Mr. Rami Al 'Uzai, Sheikh Sud' Abu Al 'Umash, and Mr. Nader Hattar at the festival site at 18:30.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
- ★ Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Ammaren, Darya Zetra, Norma Hattar, and Ihsan Tu'meh.

## Japan, Jordan sign agreement to train 20 Palestinian engineers JEA centre to serve as training site

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Japanese government will pay for the cost of training 20 Palestinian electrical engineers at a centre of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), under an agreement signed on Monday.

The agreement, signed by JEA Deputy Director-General Waled Jasa and Japanese official Hiroaki Nakagawa, is the first of its kind.

It provides for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to finance the training of 20 Palestinian engineers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip with \$163,000. Mr. Nakagawa, head of a preliminary survey team of JICA, told the Jordan Times.

The JICA is an arm of the Japanese government. It offers a broad range of cooperation arrangements through assigning experts and volunteers in various fields, training Jordanians and helping the Kingdom conduct feasibility studies.

Over the years JICA involvement in assistance to Jordan has grown to an ex-

tent that the agency has opened an office in the Kingdom.

The training courses, scheduled for Nov. 12 to March 11, aim at "providing the Palestinian participants with an opportunity to improve their knowledge and expertise in the field of electric power industry," a statement issued by the Japanese embassy said.

The course will be held once a year, from 1994 to 1998, subject to annual consultations between Japan and Jordan," it added.

"This cooperation is part of the Japanese government assistance within the context of the (Middle East) peace process," said the statement.

Japan is extending \$200 million in aid to set up infrastructure in and develop the economy of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with that of Jordan. At present, Israel is supplying the occupied territories with power.

There is also a plan to link the Jordanian and Israeli power grids as called for in the Washington Declaration signed by the two countries last month. The overlapping of the Israeli-Jordanian and Palestinian-Jordanian plans was not immediately explained. But, in the broader context of a linkage among the national power grids in the region, such overlaps would not matter anyway, experts noted.

The training courses for Palestinian electrical engineers will be conducted at a JEA centre southeast of Amman.

man established in the late 1980s. The Japanese government provided equipment worth nearly \$5 million and expertise to establish the centre, which is used by the JEA to train its own personnel as well as others from other Arab countries.

With the latest financing plan, Japanese contribution to technical cooperation with Jordan so far amounts to \$70 million, the Japanese embassy said.

Ahmad Hiyasat, director of the JEA's International Services Department, said in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the JEA and JICA were currently operating projects worth \$300,000 to train technicians from Arab countries and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Eighteen Arab trainees are currently undergoing courses at the centre under financing offered by the Japanese government, he said.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, the JEA is planning to expand the activities of the centre and raise it to the level of a regional centre for training engineers and technicians in electricity.

## 'UNRWA headquarters move to Gaza should not affect Jordan operations'

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State Mohammad Thweib Monday said he hoped that moving the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) offices from Vienna to the Gaza Strip next year would not affect the agency's operations in Jordan.

She urged the general public and the private sector to extend assistance to the volunteers to help them to continue to offer their services to the handicapped.

She added that the volunteers are currently shouldering all the expenses of their work without having to hire staff.

Team spokesperson Ali Al Waked said the group will organise a march on Sept. 2 to mark the 42nd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne (which falls this Thursday).

Mr. Waked said the march will start from the Orthodox Club in Abdoun in Amman and will head towards the Marriott Hotel in Amman.

He said the team will also organise, in cooperation with the Philadelphia Hotel, a benefit concert on Sept. 15.

He added that future activities will include organising an academic camp in Al Ramtha area in October, another camp in Tafileh Governorate the same month and an entertainment camp in Aqaba in November in observance of the King's birthday.

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## Rose calls for Sarajevo DMZ

SARAJEVO (R) — The commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia called Monday for a demilitarised zone around Sarajevo, in a security measure after NATO warplanes struck at defiant Serbs last Friday.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose was trying to set up a meeting with the commander of the Bosnian Serb forces, General Ratko Mladic, to discuss the issue, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

The plan calls for a withdrawal of all armed and uniformed soldiers and would allow both Serb and Muslim forces to take their weapons out of the zone for use elsewhere.

Weapons collection points, set up when a 20 kilometres heavy weapons exclusion zone was established around Sarajevo last February, would be scrapped.

U.N. spokeswoman Claire Grimes said of the DMZ plan: "General Rose feels such a measure would enhance the security of Sarajevo."

There had however been no response from Gen. Mladic, whose forces in Sarajevo have been blamed for an increasing number of sniping incidents in the city in recent days.

U.N. sources said U.N. sharpshooters had shot and killed one or two Serb snipers in the past two days and this

had stopped sniping in the past 24 hours.

Tension rose in the city after NATO launched an air strike against the Serbs last Friday to punish them for seizing back some of their heavy weapons from under U.N. guard in Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serbs are becoming increasingly isolated following the decision by Serbian-led Yugoslavia to cut relations in an attempt to force the Bosnian Serbs to sign the latest international peace plan.

Gen. Rose said he hoped the Bosnian Serb side would see sense and start talking peace. Despite bellicose language from some Bosnian Serb leaders the rift with Belgrade was having an effect on the public mood.

"The impression I have is that most people want peace. I think the voice of sanity in the end will prevail," Gen. Rose said in an interview from Bosnia with BBC Radio.

Since Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic closed Serbia's border with the Bosnian Serbs, hundreds of trucks have been turned back.

Radovan Karadzic, chief of the Bosnian Serbs, has ordered local authorities to mobilise a compulsory workforce to compensate for the blockade.

He acknowledged that his

forces must somehow do without Belgrade's lifeline of arms, fuel and other supplies.

Mr. Karadzic was able to draw comfort from a visit to his "capital," Pale, by the head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Pavle, who had travelled from Belgrade.

"We are not separated from our church. The church is one," Mr. Karadzic said. But he added: "This is simply a very delicate and difficult moment in our relations with Yugoslavia. We understand they cannot follow us any longer. We will have to go our own way and they should understand it."

Momcilo Krajisnik, the hardline speaker of the Bosnian Serbs' self-declared parliament, said the Serbs could not accept the peace plan unless it was adjusted to give them more land and guarantees of sovereignty.

The peace plan drawn up by a "contact group" comprising the United States, Britain, Germany, France and Russia, divides Bosnia roughly in half between the Serbs, who now hold about 70 per cent of the land, and a Muslim-Croat alliance.

Bosnian troops had seized about 12 square miles (32 sq km) of territory in their southwards thrust from Vares towards the crucial road, between Sarajevo and Tuzla.

Maj. Amink said considerate small arms machine gun fire southeast of Brugia, indicating that Muslim units were pressing ahead with their offensive towards the road.

Bosnian troops, on a roll, were still refusing to let the U.N. position peacekeepers between them and the Serbs along the shifting southern Vares front.

and 28, when "a positive response to the proposed peace plan cannot be expected," Mr. Krajisnik told the Bosnian Serb News Agency.

The Muslim-led Bosnian army has used the breathing space provided by the air strike and the closing of the border by Belgrade as an opportunity to press ahead with offensives against the Serbs in central Bosnia.

U.N. military spokesman Major Roh Amink said Bosnian government forces had taken the Serb-held hill town of Brugia, south of Vares.

He spoke of a "remarkable increase" in shelling along Muslim-Serb fronts in the Kladanj-Dastanko corridor, a central Bosnia.

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Colombian President Ernesto Samper gives the country's new president in the Colombian capital, Bogota (AFP photo)

## New Colombia leader to step up drug war

BOGOTA (R) — Ernesto Samper was sworn in Sunday as president of Colombia promising to step up the war against drug traffickers, put a human face on free market reforms and seek peace in one of the world's most violent countries.

Maj. Samper reported considerate small arms machine gun fire southeast of Brugia, indicating that Muslim units were pressing ahead with their offensive towards the road.

Bogota Airport. Four of the bullets are still lodged in his body.

Within Colombia, however, the drug war is not a top priority.

Mr. Samper said he would tighten rules on money laundering and stiffen penalties for drug kingpins who surrender.

The new president is under heavy pressure from the United States to produce early results in the war against the powerful cocaine cartels and lift a cloud of suspicion hanging over his government after allegations that drug kingpins helped finance his narrow victory over a conservative rival guerrilla.

Mr. Samper said in his speech he would work for a negotiated peace with the guerrillas but warned the rebels that they would first have to show a real will for peace.

"I will only sit down at the negotiating table when I am sure that there exist real conditions for a permanent and lasting peace," he said.

Military analysts agree that the guerrillas have no real chance of seizing power but retain a capacity for disruption which hinders the economy and deters foreign investment.

Security was tight with sharpshooters guarding rooftops, tanks patrolling streets, soldiers guarding the ceremony and a posse of bodyguards watching the new president.

In his inauguration speech, Mr. Samper put special priority on the drug war in the world's top cocaine-exporting nation.

"We are combating and we will continue to combat drug trafficking out of conviction, because of the grave harm it has caused to Colombian

society," he said.

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## Michael Jackson begins filming video clip

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Three years after the last

Soviet soldier left Hungary, Michael Jackson led "Red Army" troops past cheering crowds as filming began Sunday for a video to promote his new album History. "The film short depicts Jackson as freeing an unnamed Communist country, upon which a grateful populace erects an enormous statue of him," said Gabriella Marky of Transatlantic Media Associates, the U.S.-Hungarian company producing the video. Filming is taking place in front of the former royal castle on Buda Hill, first built in the 13th century. The castle courtyard was decorated with enormous red flags and banners showing Jackson with bandoliers of bullets criss-crossing his chest. Filming began with an explosion as shredded paper was shot high into the air. Jackson, wearing sunglasses and long gloves, waved to crowds who lined his path. They held signs reading: "I want Michael" and "Michael, who love you." He was followed by about 200 extras dressed in uniforms borrowed from the Hungarian army with the red star, which is now banned, reattached for the filming. The soldiers include women and some British extras who were flown in for the filming. During long breaks, Jackson disappeared into a trailer to escape the summer heat that has baked Budapest. A crew member shielded him with a large pink umbrella outdoors. Jackson's new wife, Lisa Marie Presley, wearing a backless black dress, was on hand for the filming. The couple confirmed last week that they were married 11 weeks earlier. Police kept onlookers several hundred metres away.

Mr. Samper and his campaign slogan "the time of the people has come" are more interested in his promises of 1.5 million new jobs, higher social spending, subsidies for agriculture and industry and a negotiated peace with the country's 10,000 Marxist guerrillas.

Mr. Samper said in his speech he would work for a negotiated peace with the guerrillas but warned the rebels that they would first have to show a real will for peace. "I will only sit down at the negotiating table when I am sure that there exist real conditions for a permanent and lasting peace," he said.

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## S.African guerrilla arms handover begins slowly

JOHANNESBURG (R) — More than three months after Nelson Mandela's ANC swept to power in South Africa's first all-race election, its guerrilla wing has surrendered only a tiny fraction of the arms it has in secret caches.

Lieutenant-Colonel Margaret Neethling, spokeswoman for the now-unified South African Armed Forces, said Monday 200 AK-47 assault rifles, Makarov pistols and explosives had been handed in since last week.

The weapons, the first to be given up, were handed over at the Johannesburg house of a former official in the guerrilla wing Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation or MK), who is now a major in the unified force, which groups regular South African troops, ex-guerrillas and men from the armies of apartheid-era black homelands that have now disappeared.

In terms of the new constitution, all guerrilla weapons became the property of the new defence force immediately after the April elections won by Mr. Mandela's ANC (African National Congress).

At the same time the regular armed forces had to disclose their weapon stocks to the ANC.

Sources in the ANC said MK officers had been reluctant to hand over weapons until former guerrillas were

given senior appointments in the traditionally white-officed armed forces.

"Some feared the old order would strike against them if they handed over their weapons, but now MK people are being given senior positions, this fear has been allayed," said a senior ANC official, who did not wish to be identified.

He said he expected the flow of weapons from secret stores to increase dramatically in the next few weeks.

The army says surrendered weapons will be examined, with light arms, such as AK-47s, likely to be destroyed. Heavier equipment, including 82 mm and 105 mm mortars, may be retained.

Tsipe Motumi, a former MK political commissar who was trained in Angola and Zambia, said thousands of weapons were stored in caches in and outside South Africa.

He said most of the arms stored in the country, many hurried and wrapped in greased paper, were AK-47s, RPG-7 rocket launchers and projectiles, handguns and explosives, including mines.

"Weapons held outside the country include bigger arms such as 82 mm and 105 mm mortars and anti-aircraft guns. They are mainly held in Angola and Uganda," said Mr. Motumi, now working as a researcher with the Johannesburg-based Institute for Defence Policy.

## India rules out early talks with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (R) — India Monday ruled out an early resumption of its stalled peace talks with Pakistan, as its envoy here urged the South Asian rivals to resolve tensions through dialogue.

Minister of State for External Affairs Raghunandan Lal Bhatia said Islamabad was trying to link future talks to their dispute over Kashmir and a proposal India rejects.

Mr. Bhatia said "no further action is contemplated at the moment" to resume the dialogue.

His statement coincided with the first public appearance here of new U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner.

"As a friend of both India and Pakistan, we will continue to encourage the search for peaceful long-term solutions related to the number of troops India should deploy in the Himalayan state, where Muslim militants are fighting for an end to Indian rule," Mr. Wisner said.

Mr. Bhatia, replying to parliamentary questions, said that one of the preconditions related to the number of troops India should deploy in the Himalayan state, where three Western hostages are being held, was to be examined, with light arms, such as AK-47s, likely to be destroyed. Heavier equipment, including 82 mm and 105 mm mortars, may be retained.

The demand was enclosed in a hand-written letter dated Aug. 7 and given to an employee of IndoChina Television who gained entry to the rebel commune Sunday.

# World News



## Russia suspends air links with Chechenya

Hungary (AP) — After the last left Hungary, past cheering began Sunday to promote History. The Jackson, named Com- place erects an "I am of him," a Marky of S-Hungarian producing the is taking place Hill, first built. The decorated red flags and Jackson's of bullets in his chest. Film poster was shot air. Jackson, and long crowds who They held: "I want Michael." He was fol- 200 extra forms bor- Hungarian star, which un- declared independence in 1991.

Flights were suspended for several months at that time, resuming later in an irregular fashion.

On Monday, General Dudayev said he was ready to stand down if Russia and the international community recognised the republic's right to independence.

He spoke after a leading opposition group announced that it had formed a government with Moscow's backing, a week after claiming to have ousted Mr. Dudayev.

Mr. Dudayev told ITAR-TASS in an interview that if such a condition were met, he would leave the seat of power and "swear on the Koran not to be involved in politics again."

"If the Chechen problem is down to my personality, I am ready to hand in my resignation at any moment," he said.

It was the first time Mr. Dudayev had publicly hinted that he would be prepared to relinquish power, under certain conditions, while he is under massive pressure from Moscow to quit.

## 200 held for Rwanda massacres — premier

KIGALI (Agencies) — Some 200 people suspected of having taken part in genocide in Rwanda are being held by the new authorities. Premier Faustin Twagiramungu said Monday.

While backing the formation of an international tribunal to try the war criminals, he deplored the slow pace of the international community's investigation into the ethnic bloodletting that left up to one million Rwandans dead, mostly minority Tutsis, in three months.

Asked about reports that PRT soldiers had committed atrocities against civilians, the premier said he had no confirmation but said the government was investigating them.

If the reports are true, those responsible will be prosecuted, he vowed.

Fearing another mass exodus of refugees, the United Nations urged France again Monday to delay its departure from southwestern Rwanda.

A spokesman for the U.N.'s refugee agency said there is "a very real possibility" that up to one million Rwandans could stream over the border into Zaire when French troops leave.

France already has withdrawn about 300 soldiers from Rwanda and plans to remove its remaining 2,200 troops by Aug. 22. It has said, however, that the deadline could be extended two or three weeks if necessary to preserve order in its so-called security zone.

## U.S. warms to Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Three years after isolating Romania because of anti-democratic violence, the United States has sent strong signals to Bucharest that it now wants Romania as an ally and wishes to let bygones be bygones.

Visits by two senior U.S. officials over the past month have hammered home Washington's new commitment to Romania and its view that the Balkan state's minority left-wing government is on the right path of free-market and democratic reform.

Romania stands all the chances of becoming a model of prosperity and success, where all citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, religious belief or any other difference, can enjoy on an

## Over 500,000 Cubans rally against disturbance

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia has suspended air links with its rebel Chechenya region, an Aeroflot official told AFP Monday, as Moscow increased pressure on the breakaway republic's President Dzhokhar Dudayev to step down from power.

"From today we are not allowed to sell tickets to Grozny," the Chechen capital, the official said, without giving details about when and why the ban took effect.

On Friday Russian aviation leaders warned that Moscow would impose an "air blockade" from Monday, according to Chechenya's Information Minister Movladi Udogov.

Russia already maintains an economic blockade against Chechenya, an oil-rich Muslim republic in the Russian Caucasus which unilaterally declared independence in 1991.

The incident caused Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to vow to reassert control over the rebel republic.

Mr. Avtukhanov's forces also announced that Ruslan Khushulatov, a Chechen who was speaker of the Russian parliament until its dissolution by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September last year, was on his way to Chechenya from Moscow Monday.

But the council did not indicate if Mr. Khushulatov would join with the Nadterechny opposition group.

In an interview with the Communist newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya Saturday, Mr. Khushulatov said he "welcomed the Russian government's recognition of the interim council."

Mr. Avtukhanov's troops appear to be in control of the Nadterechny region.

On Saturday, three of Mr. Dudayev's security agents were killed in the Nadterechny region, according to security services.

For its part, the council said that "four of President Dudayev's advisors" were killed in the region.

General Raul Castro (left) second in command of the Cuban army, stands with a guard of honour at the casket of Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, who died as a result of the confrontation on Havana's waterfront (AFP photo)

Earlier Monday a leading opposition group announced that it had formed a government, a week after claiming to have ousted Mr. Dudayev.

The group, which calls itself the Interim Council of Chechenya and claims to have Moscow's backing, said its influence "extends throughout Chechenya with the exception of the capital, Grozny," the Interfax News Agency reported.

The crowd, estimated by officials at 600,000, jammed the vast square at a meeting called to pay tribute to a policeman killed in a ferry boat hijacking but also to issue a firm rebuff against the unrest.

The sea of people waved Cuban flags, chanted revolutionary slogans, thundered out the national anthem and stood through a rain shower to hear Deputy Defence Minister Ulises Rosales Del Rio reiterate Cuba's angry charge that the United States was behind the unprecedented unrest.

The meeting was in honour of 19-year-old Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, killed by commandos who

decreed a ferry boat in Havana last Thursday to try to travel to the United States.

But it was also rallying call for the revolution after Friday's incidents, in which groups of people throwing stones clashed for several hours with police and civilian law enforcement brigades.

The Sunday newspaper Juventud Rebelde said 35 people, including 10 policemen, were injured in the clashes along a section of Havana's Malecon sea-front drive. It also said an undisclosed number of people had been arrested.

Mr. Rosales Del Rio centred his address on the United States, reiterating President Fidel Castro's charge Friday that Washington wanted to cause disorder and provoke a "bloodbath" in Cuba.

And he also slammed the United States for its "malevolent" immigration policy on Cubans.

Police in the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana gather to pay homage to fellow policeman Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, 19, who was killed during the protests along the waterfront. The waterfront area of Havana was reportedly calm after it was opened to normal traffic (AFP photo)

The deputy minister reiterated a threat by Mr. Castro Friday to flood the United States with Cuban emigrants if Washington did not alter what Havana views as an immigration policy that encourages illegal exits from the island. He said Cuba did not oppose negotiations for a just solution to the problem.

Cuba says the current policy stimulates illegal exits because Washington limits the visas it grants, but under the Cuban Adjustment Act, generally allows Cubans who have left the island illegally to stay in the United States.

Mr. Castro was absent for Sunday's rally, visiting Colombia for the swearing-in of new President Ernesto Samper. But a string of senior government figures including first deputy President Raul Castro, Mr. Castro's younger brother, stood on the podium along with an emotional group of relatives of the dead policeman.

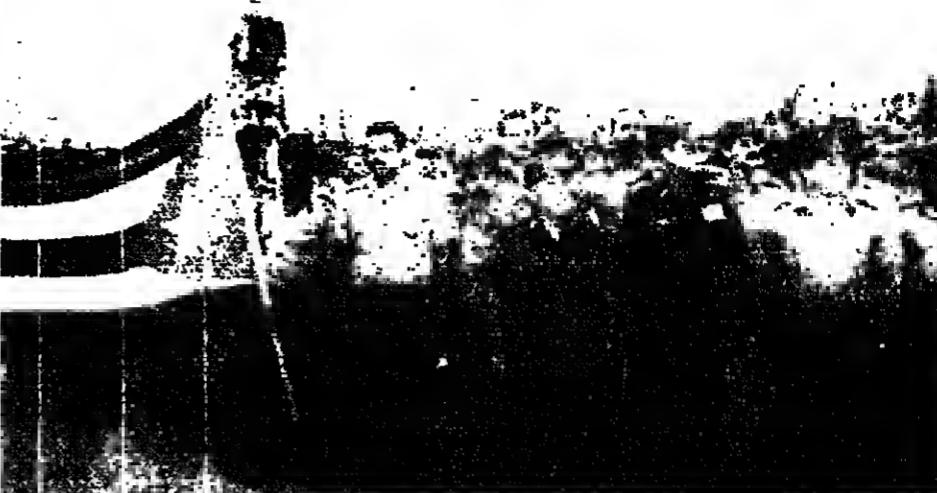
A recent spate of ferry boat hijackings, highlighting the drama of a steady trickle of Cubans who leave the Communist-ruled island illegally by sea to go to United States, were the trigger for Friday's clashes.

Mr. Castro also admitted in remarks to reporters in Bogota Saturday that there was some discontent among the population amid Cuba's current severe economic crisis.

Thursday's hijacking, which ended with authorities bringing the hijackers and passengers back to Havana after the vessel ran out of fuel, was the third such incident in nine days.

Divers are still searching Havana Bay for the body of a second policeman killed in the hijacking.

The rally Sunday, in the tradition of Cuba's huge gatherings for events such as key anniversaries, was the



Police in the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana gather to pay homage to fellow policeman Gabriel Lamoth Caballero, 19, who was killed during the protests along the waterfront. The waterfront area of Havana was reportedly calm after it was opened to normal traffic (AFP photo)

cumulation of a blaze of political activity organised since the clashes.

Officials said some 22,000 people queued Sunday to file past Lamoth's coffin, laid out in the Interior Ministry facing the square before the evening rally.

The crowds, in many cases organised by groups such as the Union of Young Communists, walked, cycled and were brought in droves of buses from Havana and the surrounding countryside.

Small demonstrations against the disturbances have been held in the city since Friday evening and state media has issued a flood of condemnations of the protesters and support for Mr. Castro and the revolution.

Divers are still searching Havana Bay for the body of a second policeman killed in the hijacking.

The rally Sunday, in the tradition of Cuba's huge gatherings for events such as key anniversaries, was the

early morning of Friday, and were dispersed by authorities.

Following that incident, some 21 people tried to commandeer a tugboat, despite the fact the vessel did not even have a motor. They were detained, the newspaper said.

During the morning people congregated again at the end of the Malecon by the port, numbering about 700 by noon. The unrest erupted in the early afternoon, centred in the area around the Hotel Deauville on the sea-front, the newspaper added.

It did not give details of the injuries of the protesters, although it published accounts of some of the injuries suffered by police and other law enforcement members.

Police fired during the disturbances, but apparently in the air and it was not clear if live bullets were used.

## International community is losing credibility as Haiti crisis wears on

"We have made very clear with the U.N. resolution, that we have a consolidated position with our allies, with the United Nations, in sending a very clear message to them that the military dictatorship has to step down... If ultimately we have to use force, we have that option on the table."

Their comments came as a senior U.S. official tried to assure Haitians that the drive to push out leaders of the 1991 coup is not stalled.

He also said that soldiers of the defeated former Rwandan armed forces were gradually returning to Rwanda and rallying to the new regime. Some 300 of them, including at least one colonel and three majors, had returned so far.

Asked about reports that PRT soldiers had committed atrocities against civilians, the premier said he had no confirmation but said the government was investigating them.

If the reports are true, those responsible will be prosecuted, he vowed.

Fearing another mass exodus of refugees, the United Nations urged France again Monday to delay its departure from southwestern Rwanda.

A spokesman for the U.N.'s refugee agency said there is "a very real possibility" that up to one million Rwandans could stream over the border into Zaire when French troops leave.

France already has withdrawn about 300 soldiers from Rwanda and plans to remove its remaining 2,200 troops by Aug. 22. It has said, however, that the deadline could be extended two or three weeks if necessary to preserve order in its so-called security zone.

## TV campaign rebounds on Berlusconi team

ROME (R) — Italian media magnate Silvio Berlusconi's government, which has just weathered a political storm, has stirred fresh controversy with a television advertising campaign intended to improve its image.

The campaign, launched at the weekend, has awoken the political debate from its traditional summer slumber and inflamed passions in the government and opposition.

The row comes as the opposition edges closer to unity following an informal meeting at a seaside restaurant Sunday between Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) leader Massimo D'Alema and his Popular Party counterpart Rocco Buttiglione.

"Just like for nappies and detergents, this is advertising and not 'public information', with the difference that nappy and detergent companies pay for it while the government gets it free," La Repubblica newspaper said in an editorial.

The government issued a statement on Monday saying it planned to intensify the campaign in the next few days.

But the PDS — the largest opposition party — called on the government to withdraw what it called an "absurd" campaign.

"A continuation would promote the strong suspicion that the government wants to control information and get its hands on RAI," said Vincenzo Vito, the PDS spokesman on the media.

The ex-Communist PDS and the Popular Party — heirs to the once-mighty Christian Democrats — appear ready to work together after Sunday's lunch between Mr. D'Alema and Mr. Buttiglione in the southern town of Gallipoli.

The two men — both installed in the wake of election defeat at the hands of Mr. Berlusconi in March — agreed to lobby for the introduction of a French-style two-round electoral system but shelved plans to name a shadow cabinet.

The government had hoped to use the August parliamentary recess to put its recent troubles behind it.

The Berlusconi government

## Kidnapped priest freed in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Muslim extremists freed unarmed a Roman Catholic priest held hostage for two months in the southern Philippines. Vice President Joseph Estrada said Monday.

The rural priest, Cirilo Nacorda, was freed by his fundamentalist captors without ransom in Zamboanga Sunday night and was handed over to the military.

"Father Nacorda was not harmed, he is alive. He has no wounds. He is very healthy," Mr. Estrada told reporters in Zamboanga City on nearby Mindanao Island.

He said the priest would probably meet President Fidel Ramos when the Philippine leader arrives in Zamboanga on his way home from a state visit to Brunei.

Mr. Nacorda, 36, was among 74 people abducted

on a highway in Basilan, 900 kilometres south of Manila, on June 8.

Fifteen of the 74 were shot and killed soon after being seized, but 57 were later released. One man escaped.

His kidnappers, members of the radical Islamic Abu Sayyaf group, had demanded a three-million-peso (\$150,000) ransom for his freedom and threatened to kill him when the military launched a full-scale assault on their strongholds.

Mr. Estrada, who heads the presidential Anti-Crime Commission, said the negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf had been hampered by the military for a string of bombings and kidnappings in the south.

Apart from Fr. Nacorda, they have abducted two foreign priests, two nuns and a handful of businessmen over the past two years.

The military at first dismissed the Abu Sayyaf as bandits, but later acknowledged the group of radical fighters who had split away from the mainstream MNLF had become a national menace.

Fr. Nacorda's kidnapping and the military assault had threatened peace talks between the Manila government and the moderate Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for a peaceful settle-

ment of a Muslim rebellion in the southern islands.

It also brought tension between Muslims and Christians and raised fears of religious war in Mindanao, where at least 50,000 people were killed at the height of an MNLF-led separatist war in the 1970s.

The Abu Sayyaf, which means sword bearer, have been blamed by the military for a string of bombings and kidnappings in the south.

Apart from Fr. Nacorda, they have abducted two foreign priests, two nuns and a handful of businessmen over the past two years.

Mr. Salgueda also carried a handwritten note indicating that he felt persecuted by the conservative Salvadorean government of President Armando Calderon Sol. In El Salvador, recovering from a nearly 12-year civil war that ended in 1992, no group has come forward to claim a link with Mr. Salgueda.

Carrying toothpaste, said Mr. Menendez.

Nicaraguan radio earlier said that Mr. Salgueda, who claimed to be armed with explosives, boarded the plane travelling from Guatemala City to Panama City in San Salvador and demanded to be taken to a European or South American country.

The pilot said the aircraft did not have enough fuel and the hijacker allowed him to fly to Nicaragua, a COPA spokesman said.

The passengers were allowed to deplane in Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport, but the hijacker continued to hold the pilot

upon his arrest, authorities learned that Mr. Salgueda was carrying nothing more than a Bible and tube of

Nigerian's oil strike enters 6th week

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's crippling oil strike entered a sixth week Monday with no sign of an end to the crisis over workers' demands that detained opposition politician Moshod Abiola be freed and installed as president.

Mr. Abiola, widely believed to be the winner of last year's annulled presidential election, remained in police custody, in the inland capital Abuja, after rejecting bail conditions imposed by a court trying him on treason charges.

"The strike will go on for as long as it is necessary," Warribe Agamene, national president of the nine-collar oil workers union NUPENG told Reuters.

## Jordan Times

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### The message from Aqaba

BY ANY serious standard, what happened in Aqaba yesterday represented a major move forward in Jordanian-Israeli relations as well as in the quest for bringing about peace to one of the most troubled regions of the world.

The Aqaba summit between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the opening of the crossing point for third country nationals between Aqaba and Eilat were two events that reverberated with symbolism. They spoke of what hard work and determination to achieve peace could produce. They held the promise that through dialogue and the will to break down barriers and erect instead channels of communication, sea changes can be attained.

But beyond the symbolism, the Aqaba landmarks showed how much work remains to be done before full peace can dawn on the Middle East.

The new crossing point in Aqaba will not, as yet, serve Jordanians and Israelis. Israel has not yet withdrawn from occupied Jordanian territories and has not stopped seizing Jordanian water. The West Bank is still an open field to Israeli soldiers who oppress and shoot and imprison Palestinians. Refugees have yet to see an end to their dilemma. And Israeli flags still fly on the occupied Golan Heights while Israeli planes continue to bomb South Lebanon. Peace means that all this ends.

That is why the negotiations continue as the best means to end the state of despair in the region. Jordan has gone all the way to push the peace process forward. Its gestures of goodwill have impressed all and have proven beyond doubt that serious and real and lasting peace is what it is seeking, and what it is working for.

Israel has to reciprocate. And that it has to do fast if the symbolism of Aqaba and Washington before it is to be translated into reality that can change the Middle East.

People have to be convinced of Israel's seriousness in ending its aggression on Arab lands and rights. Many of them are overwhelmed by the speed in which the Jordanian-Israeli talks have moved. Though the speed is justified by the urgency of ending the state of affairs in the area, the overwhelmingness is understandable against the backdrop of the history of conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis, acceptance of the new chapter in Jordanian-Israeli relations should be created, encouraged and maintained. That can be done by effecting changes on the ground.

These changes should include a fast Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian land, the West Bank and other occupied Arab territories. Progress should be achieved on other tracks of the negotiations. And adequate solutions to the issues of refugees should be provided before too long.

This is what makes peace, a comprehensive peace, a peace that people can accept and protect.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday said the democratisation process in Jordan once more offers a new evidence on the depth of vision of the Kingdom's Hashemite leadership, which foresees the future inasmuch as it is fully aware of present developments at both the domestic and foreign arenas. The paper, referring in its editorial to a meeting Sunday between Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and heads and representatives of the Jordanian political parties opposing the peace process, said the prime minister has received the views of the parties with an open heart and mind. Dialogue at the meeting was stemming from concern about the interests of Jordan, which is also keen on the interests of the nation, its causes and aspirations in the present and the future, the paper said. Discussion at the meeting dealt with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause and the two sides at the meeting agreed to the King's saying that Jordan will not forget Palestine nor its people "with whom we shared the trip of pain and hope," said the paper. It added that discussion at the meeting also focused on the issue of Holy Jerusalem and providing care for its holy places. Within the framework of the pan-Arab formula, the prime minister has explained that the train of Madrid is continuing its move... and all of its passengers are committed to its journey, and everyone will get to the main station of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, the paper quoted Dr. Majali as saying.

A COLUMNIST in the Al Ra'i newspaper Monday welcomed moves by Jordan Television (JTV) to host representatives of most opposition groups in its programs and urged the JTV administration to keep on doing that. Miss Barhouma said in a column published Monday that JTV has done well in its "60 Minutes" weekly programme broadcast Friday when it hosted people representing the opposition and presented their views to its viewers. If we wish that the JTV administration continue to do this, we would affirm that the opposition in conclusion stands in the rear line behind the negotiations, the executive authority and the decision makers, said the writer.

By John Bagley  
Reuter

NICOSIA — "Too late. It's all too late. And the Algerian authorities know it."

Diplomats living in a twilight world of herded confinement in Algeria's capital see the future as unmittingly grim.

Their governments may still put their bets on the ability of the army-backed authorities to survive an Islamist onslaught but many diplomats and others on the spot believe this is because the alternative is too unpalatable to accept.

Most, although they only say so privately, accept it is only a matter of time before the North African oil and gas producer and its 26 million people have some form of Islamic government.

The government is slowly being pushed out of some areas and this will be extended and will put pressure on the (oil and gas) pipelines and strangle them," said one security analyst, who asked not to be identified.

The latest crisis dates back to January 1992, when the authorities cancelled a general election the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win after a landslide sweep in the first round. Militants took to guns and since then

more than 4,000 people have been killed.

French intelligence, deeply implanted in its former colony, estimate that double that number has died, undermining assertions from French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua that it was "rubbish" to think Islamic moderates might take power.

The killing of five French nationals in a sophisticated attack on a guarded complex this week merely underlined that no one is now immune in the conflict pitting an army-backed government mainly against Islamist fundamentalists.

A parallel attempt to explode a car-bomb — described as an "iron-enclosed, 300 to 400 pounder the size of a coffee table" — "ratcheted up the violence another notch," said one diplomat.

"There is no reason not to expect more (bombs)."

The security analysts went further. "I would give it five years although some people put it at only one year. The inevitable outcome is an Islamicised gov-

ernment but with fragmented armed groups going on fighting — a new Afghanistan, with a transition period of turmoil."

Algeria relies on oil and gas for more than 90 per cent of its foreign income, now around \$10 billion annually but earlier much higher and dissipated in bad planning and corruption.

Diplomats say security forces have used Napalm in

sweeps against those they

call "terrorists" and that

civil war rages in several

one said. "On the security front they seem to be waiting for one side to give in, which is not going to happen. Government claims to be in control of the security situation are hard to believe."

Diplomats say security forces have used Napalm in sweeps against those they

call "terrorists" and that

civil war rages in several

witnessed horror unthinkable a year ago. Last month two men tossed the freshly severed head of a woman into a street where her 18-year-old daughter picked it up, said *El Watan* newspaper.

Most alarming for the government must be the sign of their allies, and their most important aid and commercial partners, starting to distance themselves."

"Most alarming for the government must be the sign of their allies, and their most important aid and commercial partners, starting to distance themselves."

Algerian officials blame poverty — an estimated 14 million living below a mean poverty line — for the hopelessness which they say is swelling the ranks of Islamic militants.

But diplomats say little is being done to help. "There is no sense of urgency, economically or politically."

Ordinary Algerians have

parts of the country, despite government denials.

Even the official news agency APS, whose security news appears at least selective, has acknowledged Berber villagers in the Kabylie area have set up armed self-protection groups.

Ordinary Algerians have

of anything improving." The International Monetary Fund in May provided a \$1.04 billion standby package while in June the Paris Club rescheduled debt which should save Algiers \$5 billion this year.

"None of this has been translated into anything for the man in the street. All my (Algerian) contacts feel helpless, vulnerable," said another diplomat.

For many in the street, price rises and job losses caused by reforms imposed from outside may be too high a price to pay.

Already more than one in five of the workforce is jobless, sugar prices went up 50 per cent this year, bread prices rose last month by 20 to 30 per cent.

Worse probably lies ahead. "It's all for too late," said analyst Martin Stone of the London-based Control Risk Organisation. "The terminal blow for this government started in 1992 and they know it."

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual is reported to be planning again to seek dialogue with political parties.

But as one long-time Algiers resident said: "Who is he going to talk to? Even if he finds some moderate Islamists, they don't control those with the guns who believe they are winning."

## U.N., NATO patience finally snaps on Bosnia

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

BRUSSELS — After

months of hesitation, the United Nations and NATO have run out of patience with Serb defiance and ordered a fresh air strike in Bosnia.

The question now is whether the Serbs, increasingly isolated in their apparent determination to continue the war, will test the limits again — and whether the UN and NATO are prepared to strike back if they do.

Allied planes launched their first attack since April on Friday after the Serbs snatched back heavy weapons they surrendered to the United Nations in February under the terms of an ultimatum to stop the siege bombardment of Sarajevo.

It was almost exactly a year since NATO first threatened to bomb Serb forces besieging the Bosnian capital.

The Serbs ignored warnings that they would face air strikes if they attempted to seize the weapons. But, after the air strike, U.N. officials said they promised to return the stolen tank, two armoured vehicles and two anti-aircraft gun.

However, there have been repeated violations of the weapons exclusion zones set up around Sarajevo and the town of Gorazde recently and the Serbs have also attacked U.N. peacekeepers.

Until now, the United Nations has hesitated to hit back, worried that fresh strikes could wreck diplomatic attempts to end Europe's worst conflict since World War II and bring fierce retaliation against U.N. forces in Bosnia.

But the Bosnian Serbs are now threatened with isolation even by their former backers in Belgrade after rejecting an international peace plan. NATO officials are worried that they could be desperate enough to provoke more incidents as a result.

"If they really feel cornered, this kind of action is one way of stiffening their people's resolve by strengthening the existing perception that the West is against them," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

Diplomats suggested the Serbs might also be hoping to revive previous Russian opposition to NATO air strikes in Bosnia, since Moscow now appears to have abandoned them and moved closer into line with the United States and other Western allies.

But Moscow, while not explicitly endorsing the

### A hard case to make for invading Haiti

By Walter R. Mears  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Short of a crisis that threatens America lives, or an international villain menacing his neighbours, U.S. President Bill Clinton has a hard case to make for a U.S. invasion of Haiti.

He's trying, saying that U.S. security is tied to democracy, open markets and rule of law, and that they are at risk when an elected government is ousted.

His critics don't see that as grounds for military action. Mr. Clinton says it is a bridge he hasn't come to, administration policy still counts on toughened economic sanctions, harsh warnings, and the threat of armed intervention to force Haiti's military bosses to quit in favour of the elected president they ousted nearly three years ago.

"We have kept force on the table," Mr. Clinton said. "We have continued to move it up as an option as the dictators there have been more obstinate."

At Mr. Clinton's urging, the U.N. Security Council endorsed that option, for a U.S.-led invasion by an international force that hasn't yet been lined up. That was aimed at intensifying pressure on the military regime to yield.

But the message would be more convincing with a clear consensus at home, and that's lacking. The U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution on Wednesday declaring that Congress should approve

any invasion. It's not binding.

That doesn't mean that Congress would say no. And while Mr. Clinton said he would welcome support there, the White House position is that he could act on his commander-in-chief powers, without advance approval.

That's a position that doesn't change with presidents. George Bush got approval for action against Iraq, although he'd said it wasn't required.

Sen. Alan Simpson said

Mr. Clinton made a critical mistake by not coming to Congress first, before getting U.S. endorsement.

"International support is fine," said Sen. Bob Dole, the Republican leader, "but it is no substitute for the support of Congress and the American people."

When troops are committed in a crisis, that backing usually follows, quickly. And presidents define crises. That's what happened when Republican presidents ordered the invasion of Grenada and of Panama, and in the Gulf war against Iraq.

presidents ordered the invasions of Grenada and of Panama, and in the Gulf war against Iraq.

But in a longstanding situation like this one, it is better to rally support in advance, especially when the aim is to avoid military action by making it a compelling threat. That's lacking in this case.

"The American people are still in the dark about how invading Haiti is in the national interests," said Sen. Judd Gregg, who

wasn't required.

The Republicans argued that the refugee problems stems from the worsening of already impoverished living conditions because of the economic sanctions, and from the administration's policy shifts on asylum.

"The safety of more than 3,000 American citizens still in Haiti, who could be at risk. "We have Americans living and working there, several thousands of them," Mr. Clinton noted.

But they are not being directly threatened at this point. Were that to happen, it would be a provocation bound to stir support for U.S. action.

— Drug trafficking from Haiti, cited by Mr. Gray a month ago, although there hasn't been much talk of it lately. Mr. Gregg said no drug trafficker "in his right mind is going to be using Haiti in the near future," with U.S. navy ships standing offshore.

— A menace to hemispheric democracy because of what happened in Haiti. That's the point Mr. Clinton stressed Wednesday night. "If you look at the possible ramifications of that on other countries in the Caribbean and in Central America and in South America, that is where our national security interest is," the president said.

Diplomats suggested the Serbs might also be hoping to revive previous Russian opposition to NATO air strikes in Bosnia, since Moscow now appears to have abandoned them and moved closer into line with the United States and other Western allies.

But Moscow, while not explicitly endorsing the

sponsored the resolution asserting congressional authority.

The administration maintains that there are vital American interests at stake, but the case hasn't always been clear. Among those arguments:

— The refugee problem, which Mr. Clinton's special advisory on Haiti, William H. Gray, says stems directly from the repressive government. Mr. Gray said the way to solve it is to restore elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. But since

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## Crown Prince: Peace should do away with disparity, social injustice

**FOLLOWING IS** the full text of the speech made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince, Hassan before the inauguration of the Aqaba-Eilat crossing.

IT GIVES me great pleasure to join you all today to inaugurate the Aqaba-Eilat border gate. It is indeed a significant step towards the full implementation of the provisions of the Washington Declaration, signed at the White House by His Majesty King Hussein together with President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The Declaration comes after years of relentless efforts by His Majesty King Hussein to obtain a durable and comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations on the delimitation and demarcation of our common boundaries, the opening of this border gate demonstrates our joint commitment to make a concrete contribution to peace-making. Our presence today signifies our determination to translate our intentions into tangible realities on the grounds. Only in this way can we overcome the legacy of suffering and torment that dominates the daily life of our peoples, and poisons the conduct of regional and international rela-

tions in this part of the world. Jordan and Israel lie at the heart of the Middle East and constitute an important confluence between three continents — Europe, Asia and Africa. It has always been our vision, that under conditions of peace, the Middle East would be marked by the free movement of persons, capital and goods across national frontiers. The Aqaba-Eilat border gate represents a physical demonstration of our desire to promote inter-regional transportation network. Our region is the birthplace of civilisation; it is the crossroads of different cultures where their interaction has produced the sophistication that has enthralled mankind throughout the ages.

Henceforth third country citizens will be able to marvel at this precious heritage. It is only the first step in the long search to realise our vision of normal and harmonious good neighbourliness. Let this gateway be a token of our resolve that soon our peoples will be able to share, exchange and marvel at their common legacy.

Allow me to reiterate what I said when I met with President Clinton in the presence of Foreign Minister (Shimon) Peres at the White House last October. The fundamental task of peace building is to



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (centre) shake hands together after the opening of the 'Arabs Crossing' between Aqaba and Eilat on Monday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

alleviate the prevalent conditions of poverty and deprivation in many segments of our societies. We agreed on the need to put an end to the politics of despair and dispossession. Peace should relate directly to the basic interests of those who bore the brunt

of war by building material interdependence in major economic spheres.

Let the opening of this border gate in this particular location mark the foundation stone on which we intend to build our common future.

I now turn to our great

Jordanian people, who have always sought peace and justice, to say that this day that witnesses the inauguration of this border crossing must be viewed as a symbol of the passage of the just peace which we envision for our future generations. Indeed,

the challenges of peace require further commitment, effort, and labour to translate the slogan of peace into the reality of progress and prosperity on the ground. Peace, it should be added, must spark our innovative abilities and make this desert

a success story to be remembered by succeeding generations.

You have always stood firm and steadfast behind your Hashemite leadership in peace no less than in war, and have unfailingly been the best of family in adversity. As such, you shall always remain, as His Majesty, the leader, has always known you to be, the best kinfolk when a new dawn breaks on a region that has long suffered agony and bitterness.

I cannot but recall here the souls of our faithful martyrs; the martyrs of 1948, of 1967, and of all the long years of struggle. They gave their blood in defence of the right of their people and of their homeland to a secure and prosperous life.

Throughout history, Jordan has been a gateway through which civilisations have passed and a crossing point upon which various currents have converged; none of which has ever altered the true identity of this country.

Having always been a bridge to hope and well-being, Jordan stood as a great portal of hope to the thousands who passed through this home during the Gulf crisis — the thousands with whom we shared what little food, water, and medicine we had. Today, we open this crossing

point to our guests from other countries. We are giving them the opportunity to see the facts for themselves and to our cultural heritage. In turn they may convey to their peoples and nations in due course a humanitarian message of the region's dire need for development and all that development requires in terms of water, energy and infrastructure. This will contribute to the alleviation of the suffering of our Jordanian individual.

The crossing point also stands as an assertion of our understanding of the concept of openness and communication with the world without forsaking our rights. What we witness today is indeed yet a further message to the world that conflict in this part of the world has gone on for too long; and that we desire that it go on no longer.

Let it be a testimony to our joint commitment to turn the Jordan Rift Valley into a valley of hope, development and prosperity for all our peoples. A durable peace must be underpinned by the will to do away with disparity and social injustice and build a commonwealth of shared human interest.

And I quote the Bible: "Turning the valley of trouble into a gate of hope."

Thank you.



Yitzhak Rabin addresses Monday's ceremony (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Walls are tumbling because peoples, leaders want it — Rabin

**Following is** the text of the address made by Israeli-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the inauguration of the Aqaba-Eilat crossing point:

Your Royal Highness, the Secretary of State of the United States, Prime Minister of Jordan, the foreign minister of Israel, ministers of the governments of Jordan and Israel, Ladies and gentlemen.

The stage master working in the service of history has done us a great favour today. He has chosen this site as the ideal backdrop for the new relationships being formed between Israel and Jordan.

We are literally seated at this time and this place — all of us, Israelis, Jordanians and Americans — on the remains of the past. We are sitting on an old minefield which was cleared only three days ago. This is what divided Israel and Jordan for decades. This is the field in which death and destruction were sown.

We are sitting at this time and at this place all of us, Israelis and Jordanians, before the future. To our right and to our left stand New Israel-Jordan border crossing terminals, which sprang up overnight in short time. Tourists and businessmen from all over the world will start to pass through here from Eilat to Aqaba, from Aqaba to Eilat, from Israel to Jordan and from Jordan to Israel.

Three days ago this was a wilderness. Only sand and more sand. Today this place breathes with new life. Mazal Tov. Congratulations.

Today it is materialising — telephone lines, tourism. Soon it will seem as though this is the way it has always been.

Ladies and gentlemen. They say to us the pace of events is too fast, we cannot keep up, wait a moment.

Your Royal Highness, our friends in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, we have waited 46 years, we have gone through war, pain and suffering. To prevent further loss and sorrow, we cannot wait even one day more.

It looks like the walls of hostility are tumbling down before our eyes. And all this would have been impossible had not the two peoples, the Jordanians and the Israelis, and their leadership, wanted this to happen. This is the first step on a long journey. There are still problems, difficulties, obstacles, and challenges ahead.

But the far-sightedness which has characterised our contacts in the past and which has compelled us to take the first steps towards peace and the spirit of responsibility and pragmatism, (these) in the end will reach comprehensive peace with the Kingdom of Jordan and with all our neighbouring Arab countries.

Ladies and gentlemen in the Arava, of which Hosea says in the Bible, "the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad and the desert shall rejoice and bloom as the rose."

We hereby declare the Arava border crossing between Israel and Jordan now open.

"Just as we have supported you in coming this far, the

## Araba Crossing is opened

(Continued from page 1) **Following is** the full text of the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the inauguration of the Aqaba-Eilat border crossing-point.

THE GREAT American author, William Faulkner, once proclaimed "man will not merely endure; he will prevail." Today, again, our two countries fortify our faith in that basic proposition. Through 46 years of pain and suffering and conflict, Israel and Jordan have endured. Their war is over. Now peace will prevail.

Today Israel and Jordan are lifting the spirits of a wounded region, by reminding it of the courage and

honour, the compassion and sacrifice that two peoples can demonstrate in the search for peace. From this ancient and sacred land, a new message of hope and reconciliation, born of blood and tears, has gone out. The longings and prayers of generations of Arabs and Jews are being fulfilled.

Just two weeks ago, King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin came together at the White House to sign the Washington Declaration.

There, with the world as their witness, they declared an end to the conflict between their two nations. There, they pledged to bind the bonds of a real and lasting peace between their peoples.

Jordanian and Israeli southern commands, Mohammad Lakkawi and Yousef Mishlef, saluted each other, capping the end of hostilities.

Explaining the subdued Jordanian reaction compared to the jubilant Israeli mood one official attending the ceremony said: "Of course everyone is shocked. But this is the price of peace."

Mr. Eban himself admitted the difficulty posed by the psychological barrier.

"The Jordanians had to cross more ground than us," said Mr. Eban, an Israeli elder statesman and one of five dignitaries who attended the lunch at King Hussein's palace after the ceremony.

"They didn't accept our presence as legitimate. They've made a tremendous leap

now."

"A crossing point is open, a wall torn down," said Mr. Christopher, who warned against the "forces of hatred" and cautioned that the only way to realise the goal of peace was a comprehensive and lasting solution.

After the speeches, 10 sons and daughters of servicemen killed in action from each side shook each other's hands and exchanged gifts. The Jordanians, mostly members of the armed forces, presented the Israelis with a silver and bronze replica of the Nabatean city of Petra. The Israelis gave the Jordanians a medal with Eilat inscribed on it.

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## King hosts Rabin at Aqaba

(Continued from page 1)

that Jordan was "dissatisfied" with the PLO for its lack of coordination with the Kingdom beginning with the Oslo agreement, delaying the signing of a PLO-Jordan economic agreement and misrepresenting Jordan's position on Jerusalem.

The meeting with the representatives of Jordanian, Israeli and American media in the garden of the King's residence in Aqaba was another step in a process towards normalising relations between former enemies.

Sitting in the heat shaded by palm trees, the King told journalists and officials from the three sides that he hoped future generations would experience "the kind of peace that I have never experienced over the many years that have passed."

"I hope that it is something that we will leave for all peoples, for men, women and children to live in and enjoy in the future," the King said.

Secretary of State Christopher, who earlier at a ceremony inaugurating the first Eilat-Aqaba crossing, pledged that his country will "walk the final mile" in assisting Jordan and Israel to reach a full peace, and revealed that President Bill Clinton had written to the member states of the Paris Club of creditor nations recommending they write off Jordan's debt.

Jordan, which has already begun to reap the peace dividend after the King signed the Washington Declaration ending 46 years of hostility, owes the 13-member club an estimated \$1.1 billion out of a total of about \$6.6 billion in overall foreign debts.

A senior Jordanian official explained to the Jordan Times that Jordan has been informed by the U.S. secretary of Mr. Clinton's recommendation to the Paris Club and said that if successful "about a third of the Kingdom's debt would have been removed."

Already the U.S. is in the process of writing off \$220 million in Jordan's debt and due to write off an estimated \$500 million in the next two years.

"I reported to His Majesty and the others today that the

boped that the Kingdom's "goodwill" overtures to Israel over the past two weeks will be met with concrete commitment on the border and water issues.

"We were disappointed," the senior official said without elaboration.

On the issue of displaced persons, which make a large percentage of Jordan's population, Mr. Rabin also appeared to be dodging a direct response which would commit him to allowing these refugees to return to their homes in the occupied territories.

Revealing that a four-member committee of Jordan, Palestinians, Egypt and Israel was in the works, Mr. Rabin said that it was part of the agenda of that committee to discuss resolving the problem of displaced persons.

"I do not believe that at this stage it will be advisable to me to say what will be the results," Mr. Rabin said.

Conceding that there was pressure on Israel from "many corners" he said that he believed that "invitations were issued or will be issued for the convening of such a committee and the committee will discuss it."

Mr. Rabin said the new chapter in Israeli-Jordanian relations "serves as an example of what can be achieved in relations between Israel and the other Arab countries."

Turning to the King, Mr. Rabin said of Israel's expanding relations with Jordan: "I don't believe this could be achieved without your vision and courage. You led your people through difficult periods and you made the right decision."

## Long road for Syria, Israel

(Continued from page 1)

of responses."

Hizbullah is believed responsible for bloody attacks on Jews in Buenos Aires, London and possibly Panama. It had also duelled with Israel over the border from Lebanon, where Syria is the dominant political and military forces.

"I expressed my concerns about Hizbullah," Mr. Christopher said. "We had a serious discussion of that issue."

## Arab Gulf states tighten grip on spending

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are tightening their grip on spending earnings from their huge crude exports in a bid to tackle chronic budget deficits and avoid draining overseas reserves.

With oil prices languishing at nearly half their 1981 levels, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are no longer lavishing funds with some considering imposing taxes and freezing most subsidies.

After spending cuts failed to bridge the gap in most countries, authorities moved to tighten supervision of ministries to ensure they stick to budget allocations and in some cases even cut expenditure.

Such controls were successful in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where government offices now have to get approval from the state-run auditing department to finance new projects.

"The department has become the finance ministry's strong arm in its efforts to force all departments to be rational in their spending and ensure allocations will be used properly," a UAE official told AFP.

"This has produced great results as the budget deficit has turned into a surplus over the past two years without any negative impact on the economy. This has saved the government the effort to tackle the deficit."

Official figures showed a UAE projected deficit of \$70 million for 1993 turned into a surplus of \$14.3 million after actual spending was reduced from \$4.79 billion to \$4.19 billion.

A 1992 deficit of \$400 million also became a surplus of \$572 million after actual expenditure was cut from \$4.72 billion to \$4.22 billion dollars.

The surpluses were

achieved despite high defense spending which sapped nearly half the budgets as the UAE and other Gulf states pressed ahead with plans to bolster their armies.

Qatar, where a budget deficit has persisted for 10 years, is also planning to follow the UAE's example with the auditing department seeking greater powers to ensure more efficient supervision of public finance.

"There are efforts to offset the effects of weak oil prices on our income. This requires tightening expenditure and protecting the country's resources against misuse and mismanagement," the department's undersecretary, Sheikh Fahd Ibn Jassim Al Thani, told the UAE daily Al Khaleej.

"The department has finalised a draft law that will strengthen its independence so it will carry out its auditing functions effectively. The law

will be put forward to the competent authorities for approval," he said.

Kuwait said last week it hoped its budget deficit would disappear by 2000 when it overcomes financial burdens resulting from the 1990 Iraqi invasion.

Defense expenditure in Kuwait was projected at around \$1.67 billion in the fiscal year 1994-1995, boosting the estimated deficit by 23 per cent to around \$5 billion over the previous year. Without defence allocations, the deficit could be 16 per cent lower.

"Spending in Kuwait had also come under tight control as the budget had gone through several bodies including parliament," a Gulf economist said. "But expenditure is projected higher this year only because of post-war obligations. When they are over, spending could be lower."

Bahrain was the least affected by weak crude prices as it does not depend heavily on oil exports.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, suffered most from low crude prices forced to borrow virtually annually and withdraw a large part of its overseas assets.

Its financial plight was underscored in the latest budget which slashed expenditure by 19 per cent to curb a widening deficit that has drawn criticism from the International Monetary Fund for the first time.

Spending was projected at \$42.66 billion in 1994, cutting the estimated shortfall to \$1.25 billion from \$7.42 billion.

Oman also trimmed spending by 10 per cent and an Omani official told AFP there could be further cuts throughout the year to eliminate the deficit.

"The UAE government no longer deducts five per cent from the monthly salaries of Palestinian employees in the country," a PLO source told

## PLO faces fresh squeeze as UAE stops Palestinian tax

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has cancelled a tax on Palestinian workers used to help finance the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which is struggling to pay for self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, PLO sources said Monday.

The move will deprive the PLO of more than \$5 million a year deducted from the nearly 70,000 Palestinians in the Emirates.

The sources said Palestinians working in the UAE, once a key financial backer of the PLO, no longer pay a five per cent "Liberation Tax" destined for the organisation under a long-standing agreement with the oil-rich Gulf state.

"The UAE government no longer deducts five per cent from the monthly salaries of Palestinian employees in the country," a PLO source told

AFP. "The decision took effect from July 1. I do not know the reasons but it is apparently linked to the autonomy agreement between the PLO and Israel."

Israel and the PLO signed a peace agreement last September opening the way to autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

The UAE and other Gulf states were the main financial supporters of the PLO before the Iraqi invasion. They had extended nearly 90 per cent of the \$2 billion pledged by Arab states at the Baghdad summit in 1979. Hundreds of millions of dollars were also channelled to the PLO in grants and private donations.

But Kuwait and other Gulf states have promised to contribute to an international aid package for Palestinians in the self-rule areas. They have stressed such aid would be channelled only through the World Bank.

The PLO sources said Saudi Arabia, which now hosts the largest Palestinian community in the region, was maintaining the liberation tax which it disburses as Zakat, under which Muslims pay part of their earnings to the poor as alms.

The taxes are also still in force in Qatar and Bahrain, which have a relatively small Palestinian community, they added.

"Palestinians in these three countries are still paying taxes for the PLO. There has been no decision to stop them and I do not expect any change in the near future," a spokesman at the PLO office in Qatar told AFP by telephone.

## Singapore premier expects 9-10 per cent growth this year

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong announced Monday an upward revision in Singapore's economic growth forecast to between nine and 10 per cent this year based on higher productivity and stable prices.

"We are doing well this year. Economic growth in the first half of 1994 was 10.5 per cent. This follows a strong 9.9 per cent growth in 1993," Mr. Goh said in his national day message.

Singapore, which celebrates the 29th anniversary of its independence Tuesday, last chalked up a double-digit growth rate of 11.1 per cent in 1988.

"All sectors of the economy are expanding. Productivity growth is high, consumer prices have been stable, despite the introduction of the goods and services tax in April," he said.

He was referring to the broad-based three per cent valued added tax introduced to widen the government's revenue base.

"For the year as a whole, the ministry of trade and industry has revised the growth forecast upwards, to between nine and 10 per cent," Mr. Goh said.

A ministry spokesman said

## Iranian parliament moves to protect poor in 5-year budget plan

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament set out a five-year budget plan Monday aimed at protecting the poor in line with a call from the country's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, parliament sources said.

The measures were aimed at giving the government greater powers in steering the economy in the period from 1995 to 2000, reversing the free-market policies of the past five years.

Prices of basic goods and services will be frozen or subject to gradual increases.

The government was mandated to pursue a protectionist policy to help the poor, regarded as the Islamic regime's main power base.

Ayatollah Khamenei had urged parliament to pay greater attention to Iran's dispossessed and maintain most of the current subsidies on basic

goods of \$420 million on baby milk.

One member of the committee, Mohammad Hashemi Rahbari, said parliament had decided to create a balance between the different sectors of the economy.

Parliament also decided to provide special financial incentives for members of the Islamic volunteers militia and other political cadres, and give them a greater role in economic management.

The government had asked for a 20 per cent hike in the cost of medicines and other increases to help achieve "real prices" for basic goods. In return, the government would improve the country's social security system to provide a safety net for the needy.

But the committee rejected the call and obliged the government to maintain a sub-

## Chinese overseas investment totals \$5.2b

BEIJING (AFP) — China has approved \$5.2 billion of overseas investment by domestic firms since 1979, a report has said.

By June, the minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation had approved 1,704 non-trading ventures with Chinese investment of \$1.7 billion and 2,854 trading ventures in which the Chinese partners put up \$3.47 billion, the China Daily Business Weekly said.

However officials acknowledged that the true outflow of Chinese capital since China opened up to the outside world in 1979 was much higher, with many local firms failing to register their activities with the ministry.

They estimated the actual figure of Chinese assets in ventures abroad at some \$20 billion.

The non-trading ventures covered sectors such as natural resources, transport, finance and other services.

## The choice is yours. The colour is you.

This is the unique Jewelry of:

**DAJANI'S JEWELLERS**

6th Circle - Amman.



"Marriage changes a man. I swear Stanley gained five pounds while he was standing at the altar!"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**SELIA**

Walt Disney's Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

**DAAMM**

2000 AD comic book

**PLIDIM**

1994's most popular book

**STEBIC**

1994's most popular book

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

**THE**

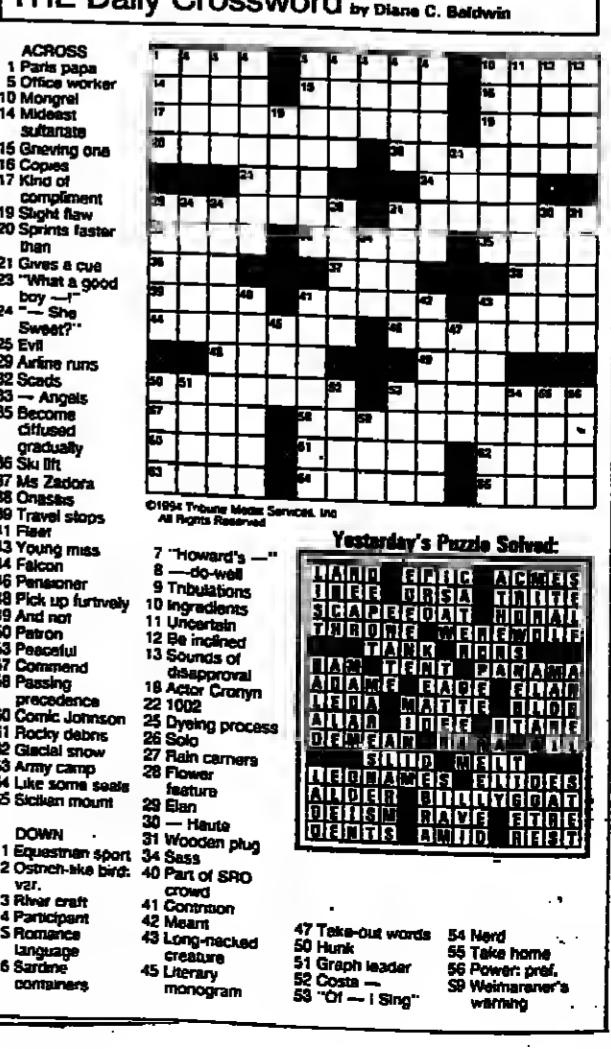
(Answers tomorrow)

**Jumble: TYING HAREM ENMITY PUSHER**

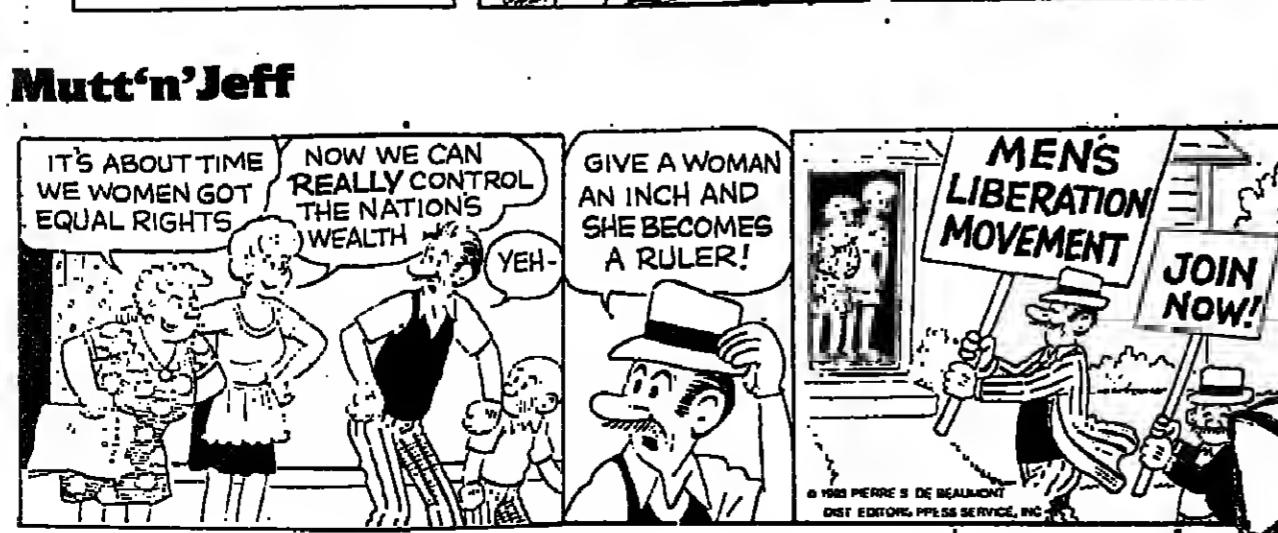
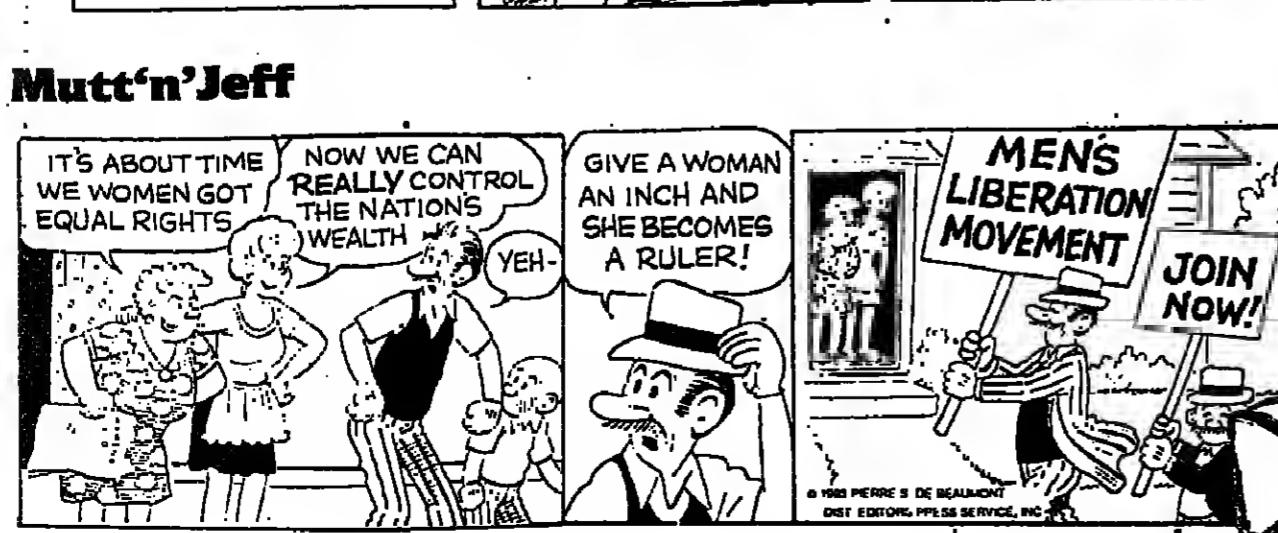
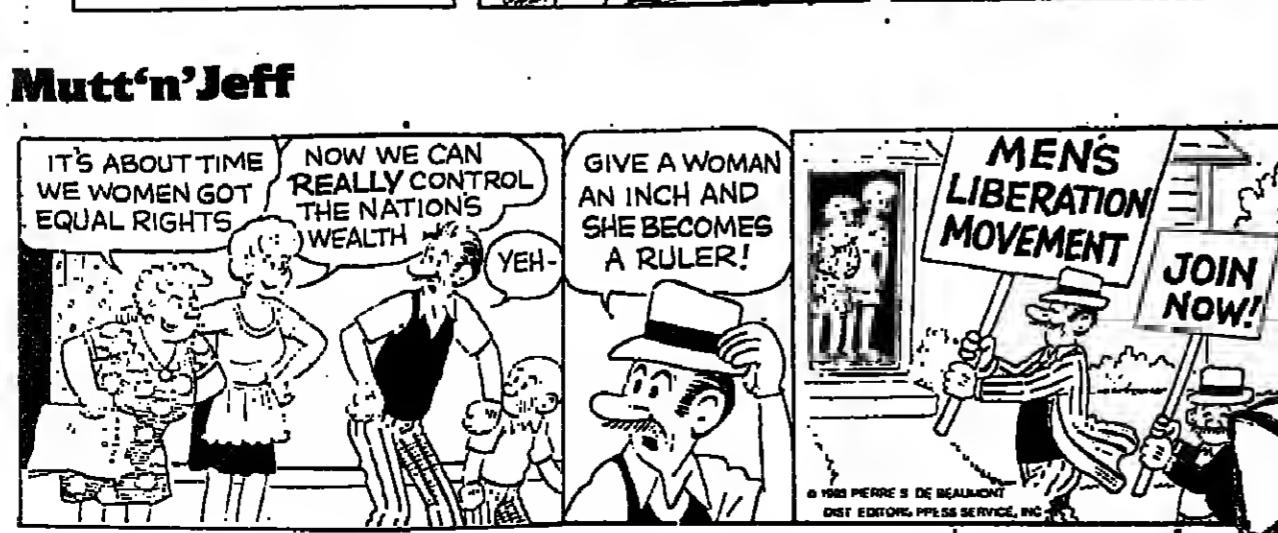
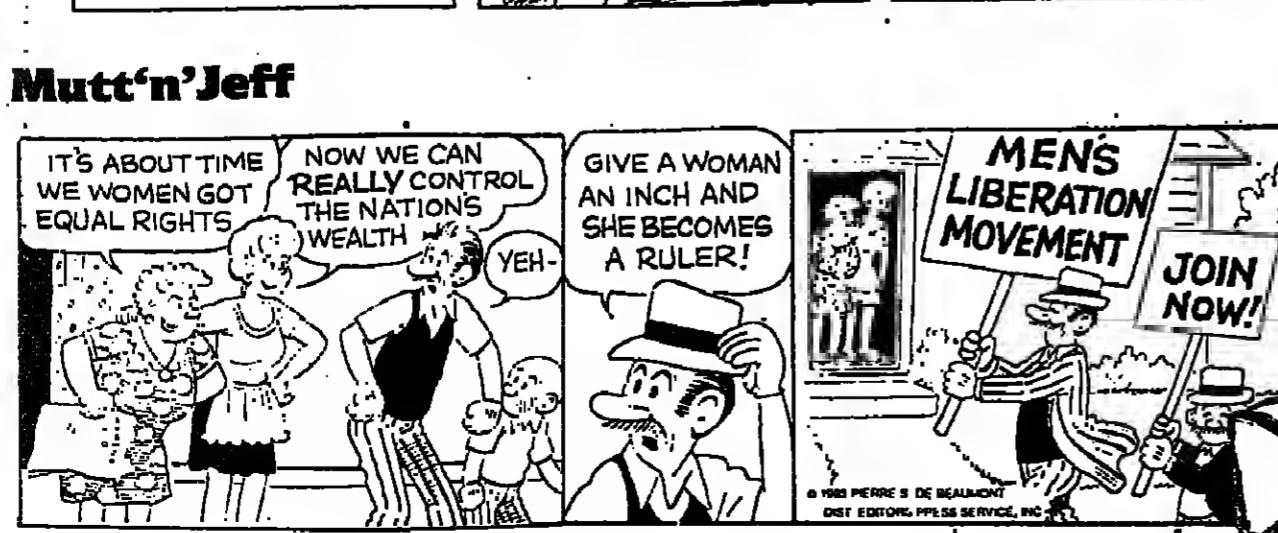
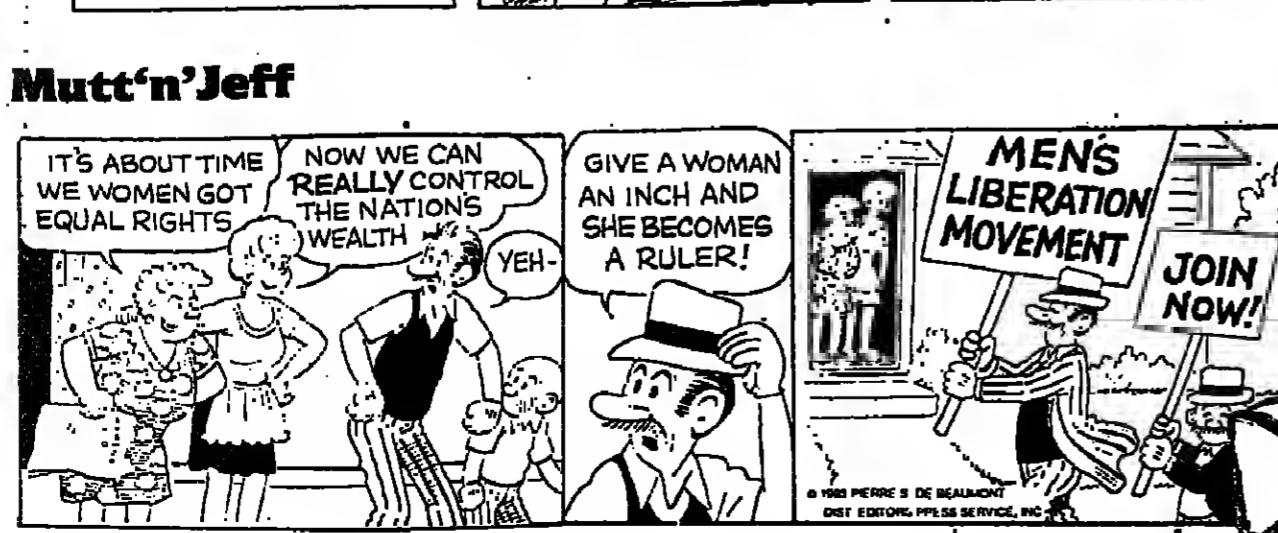
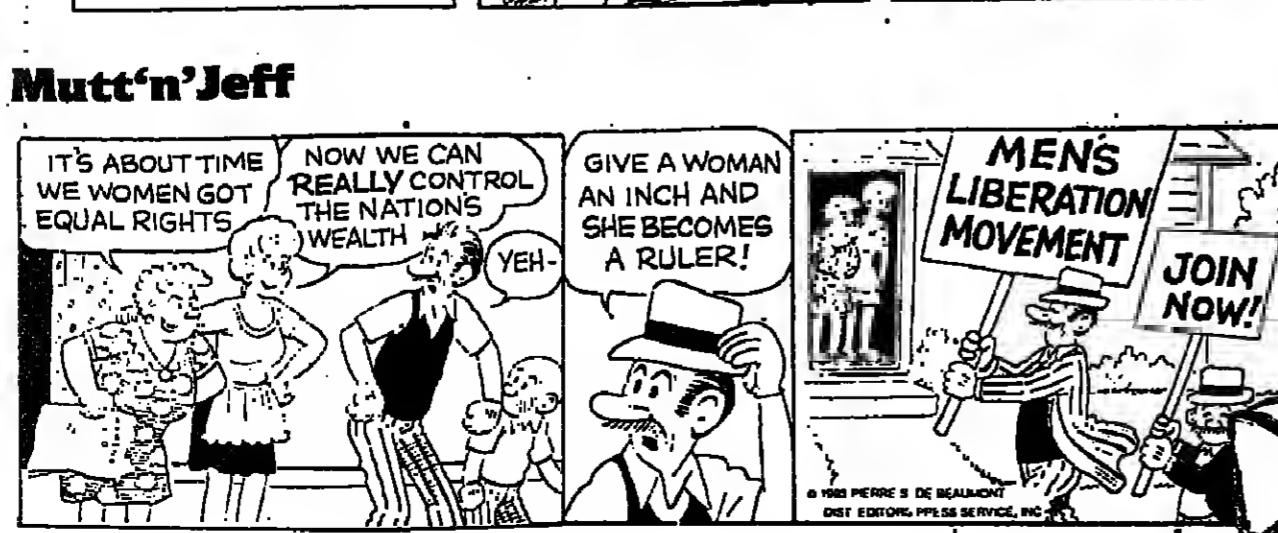
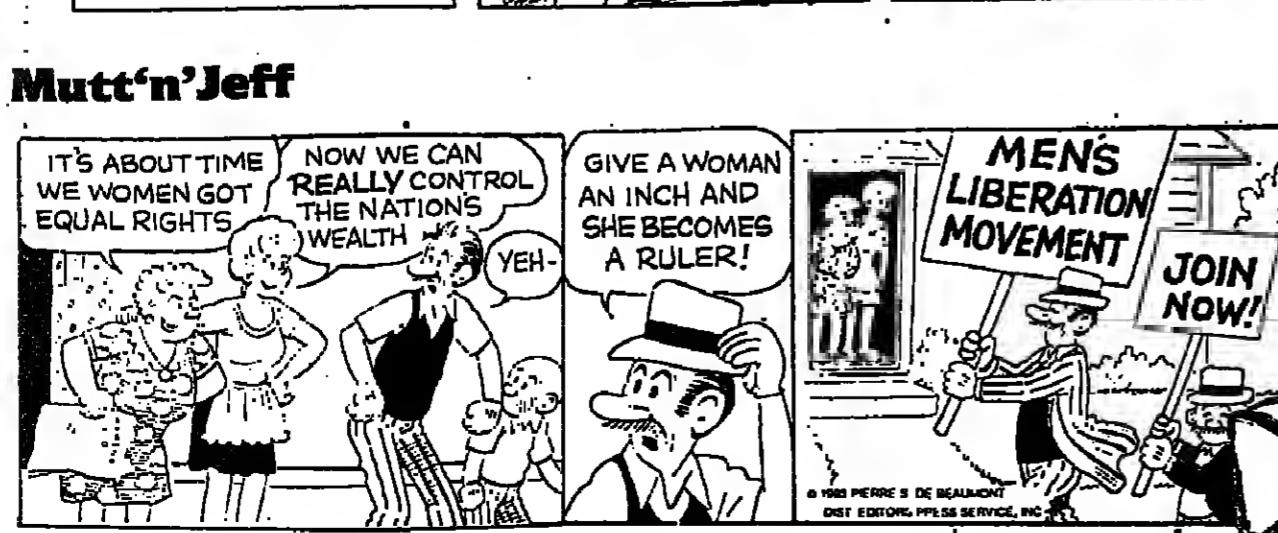
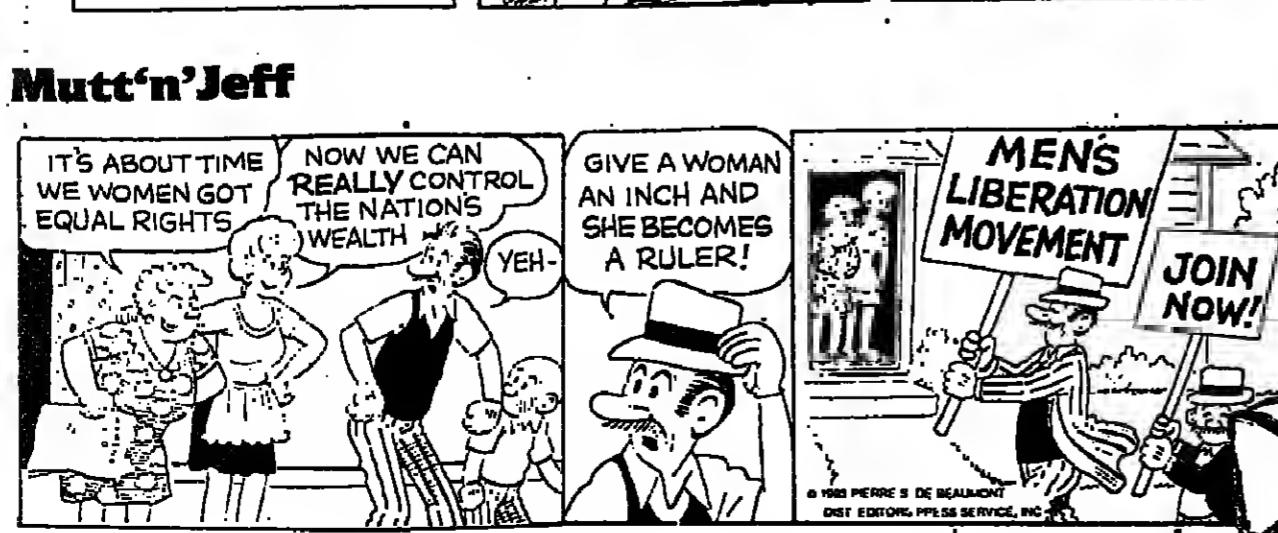
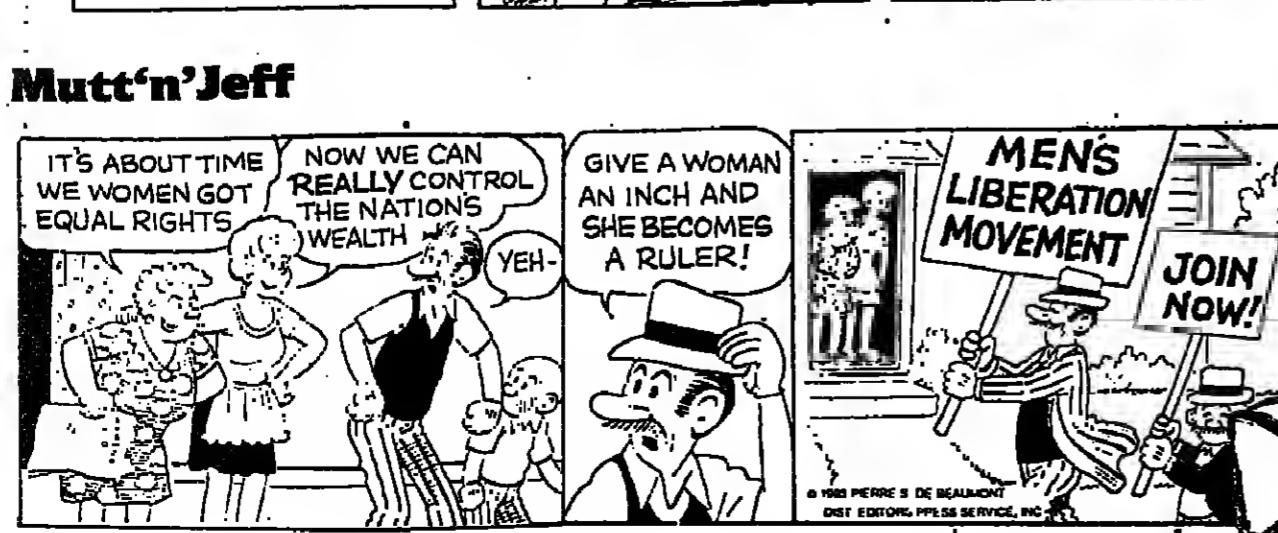
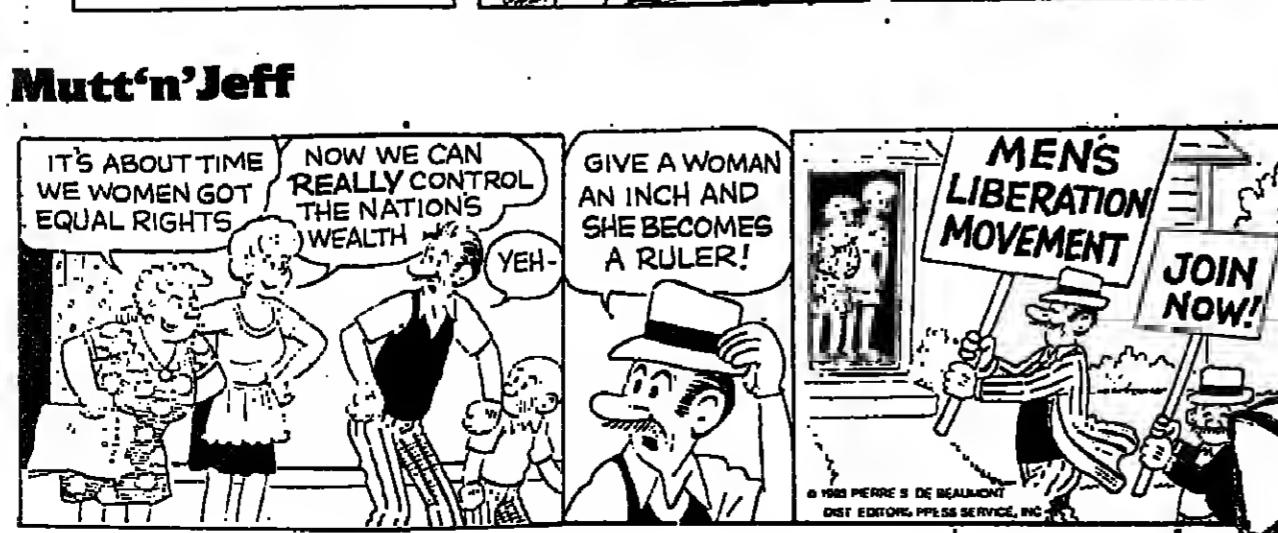
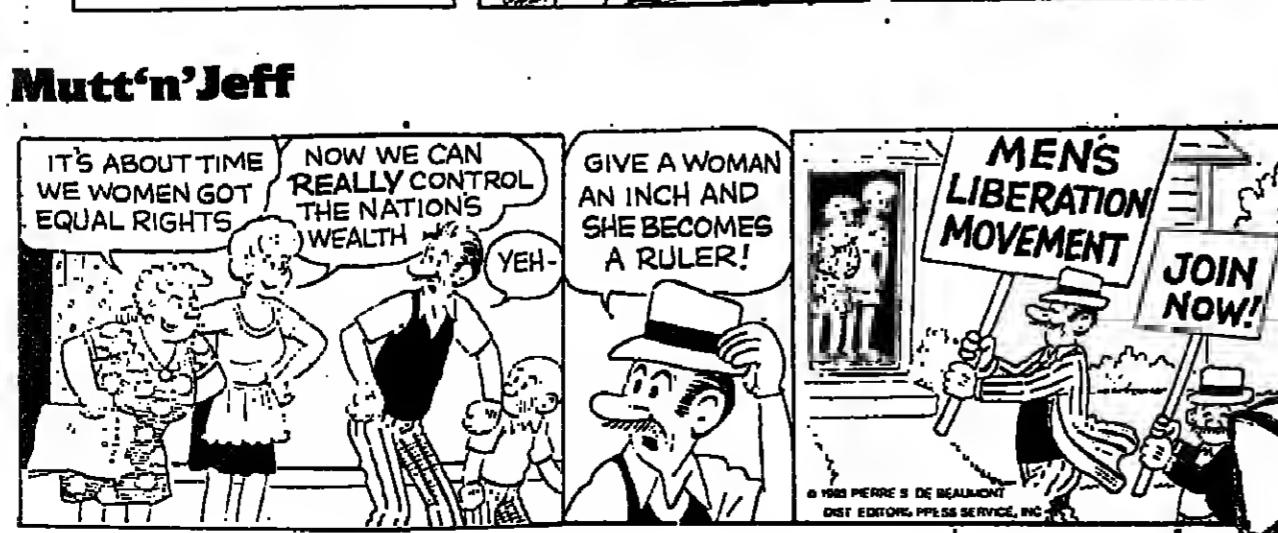
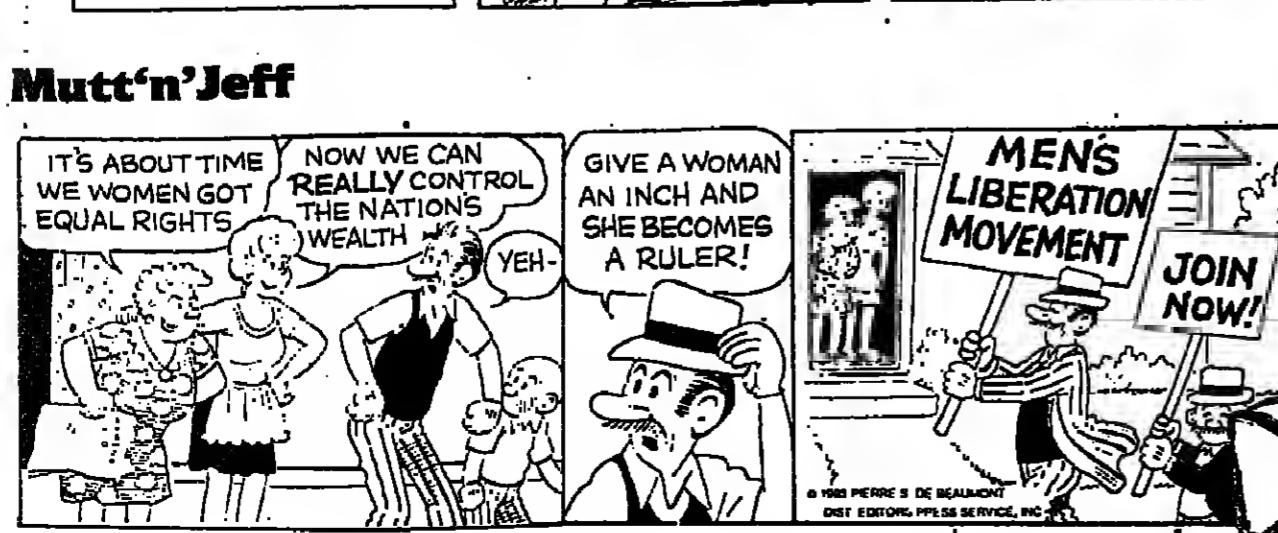
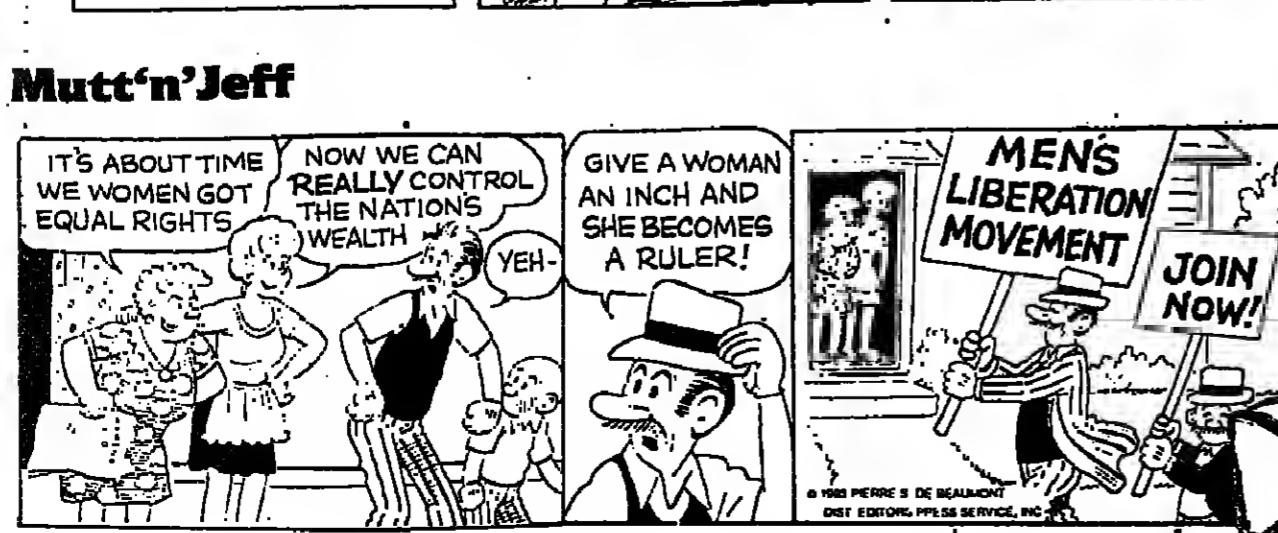
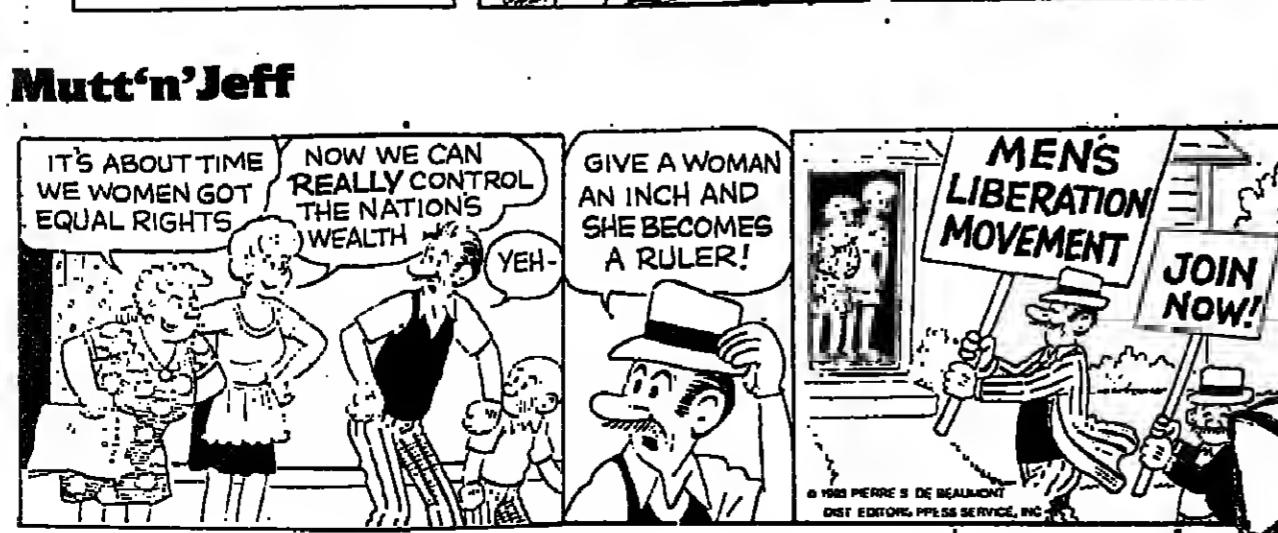
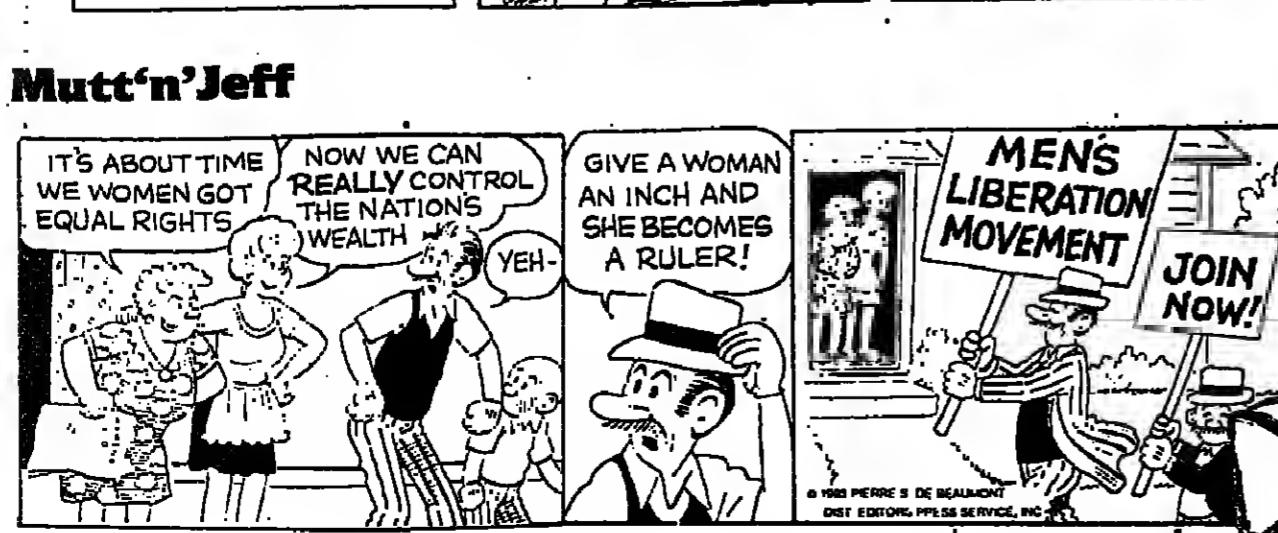
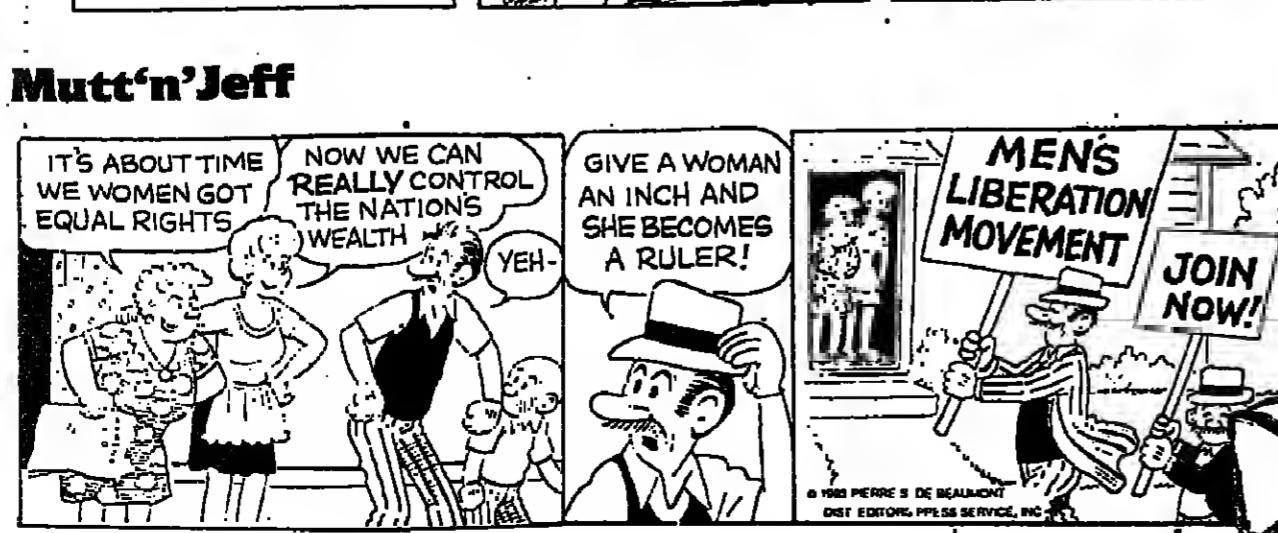
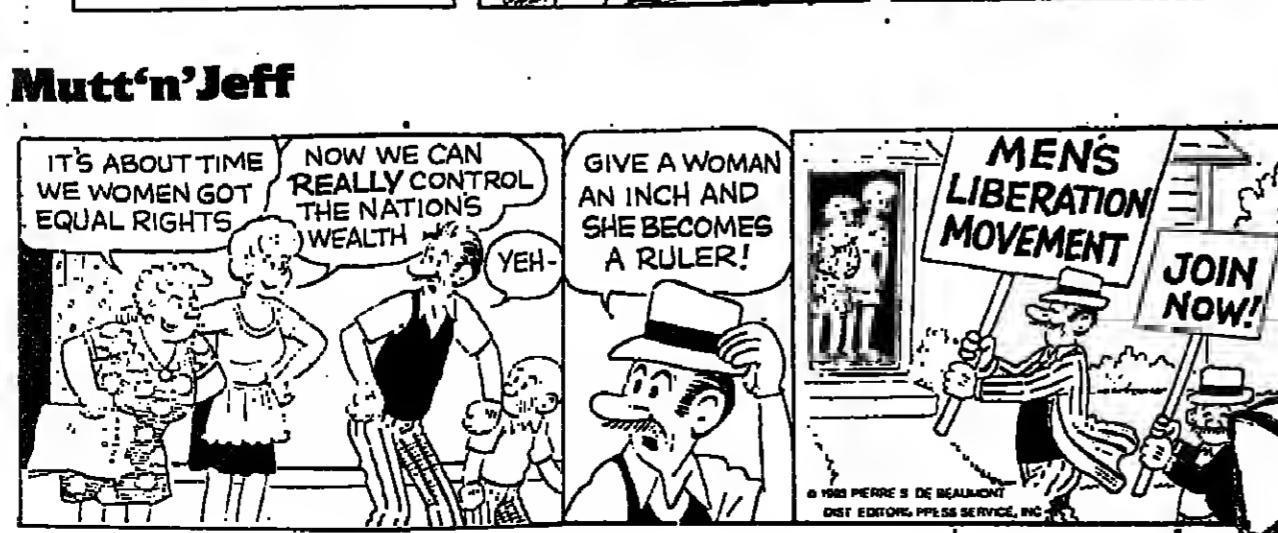
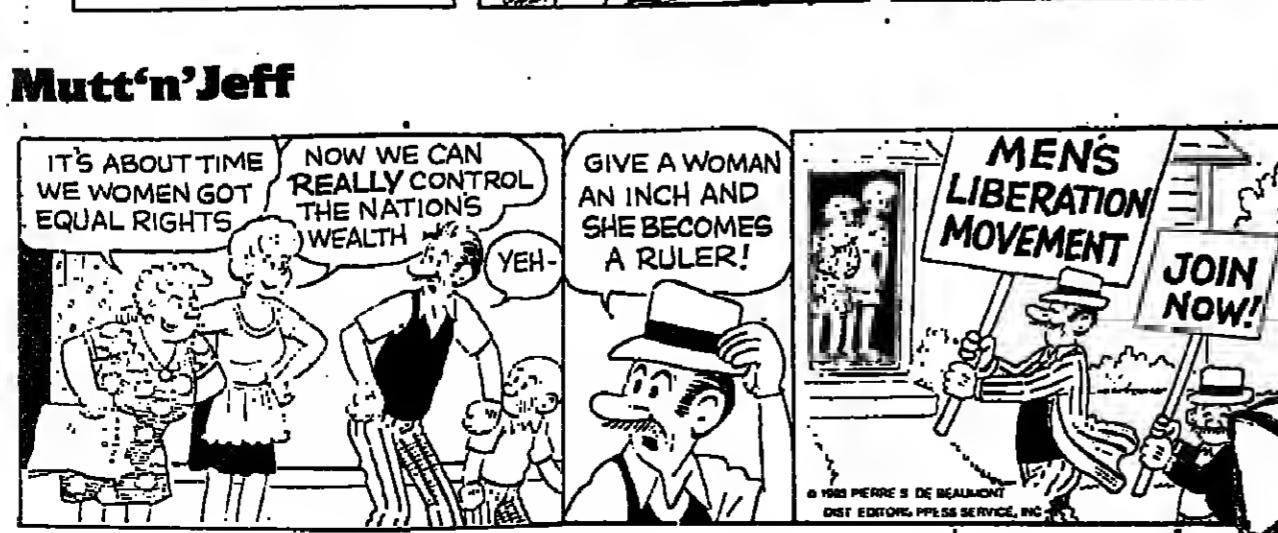
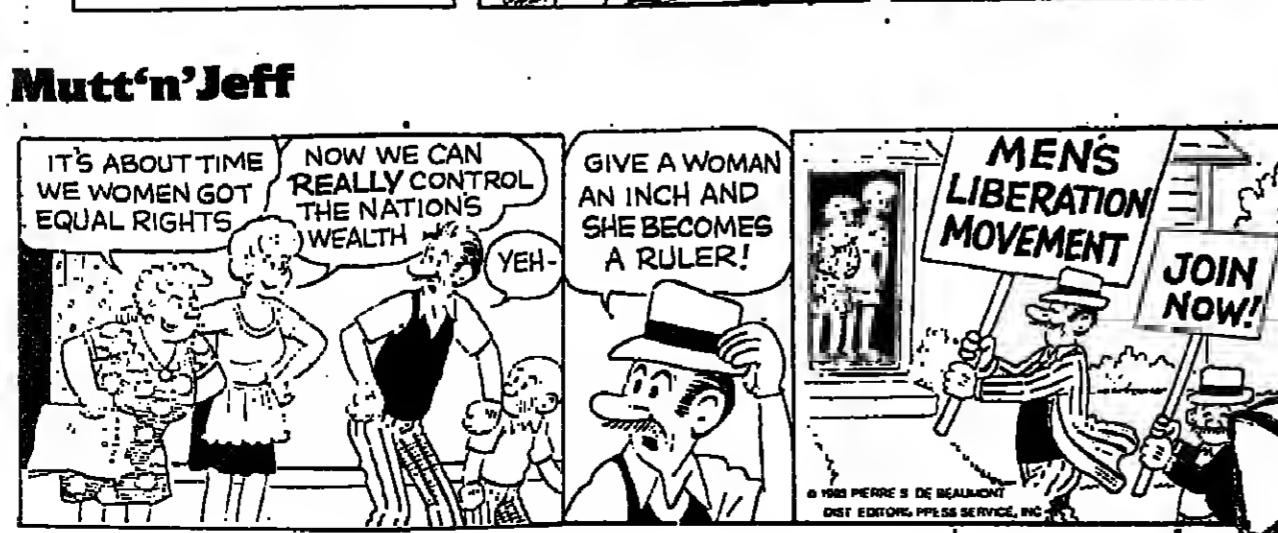
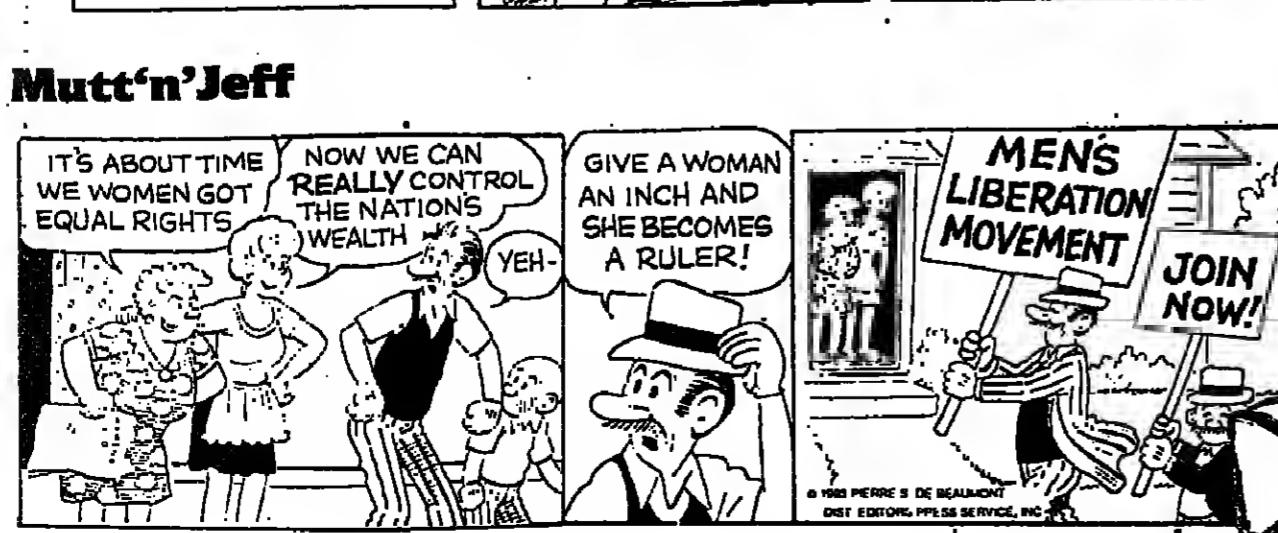
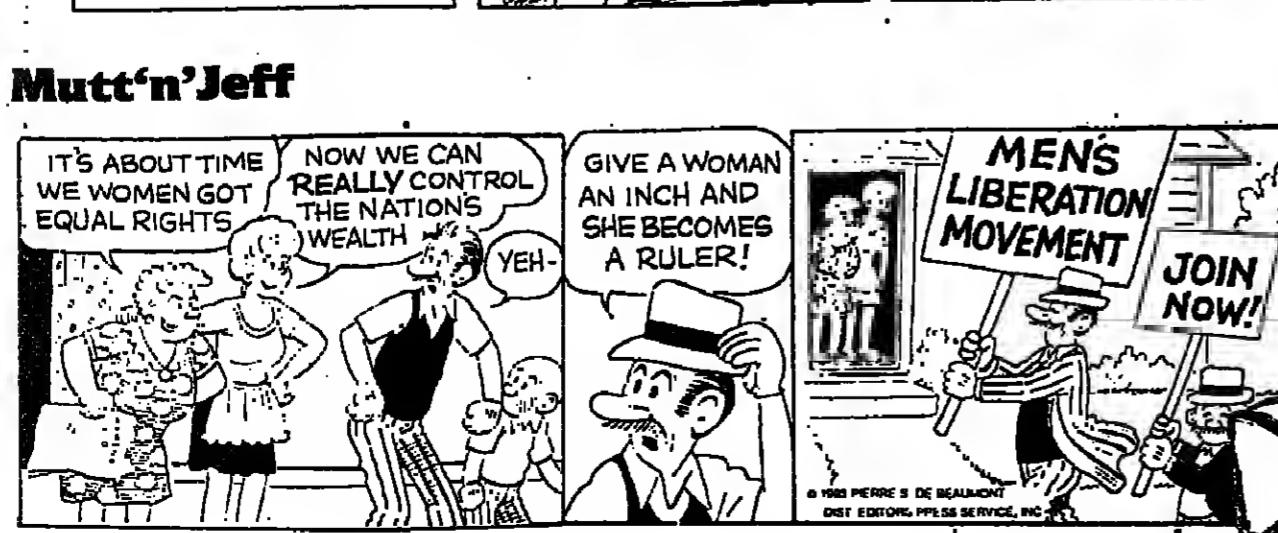
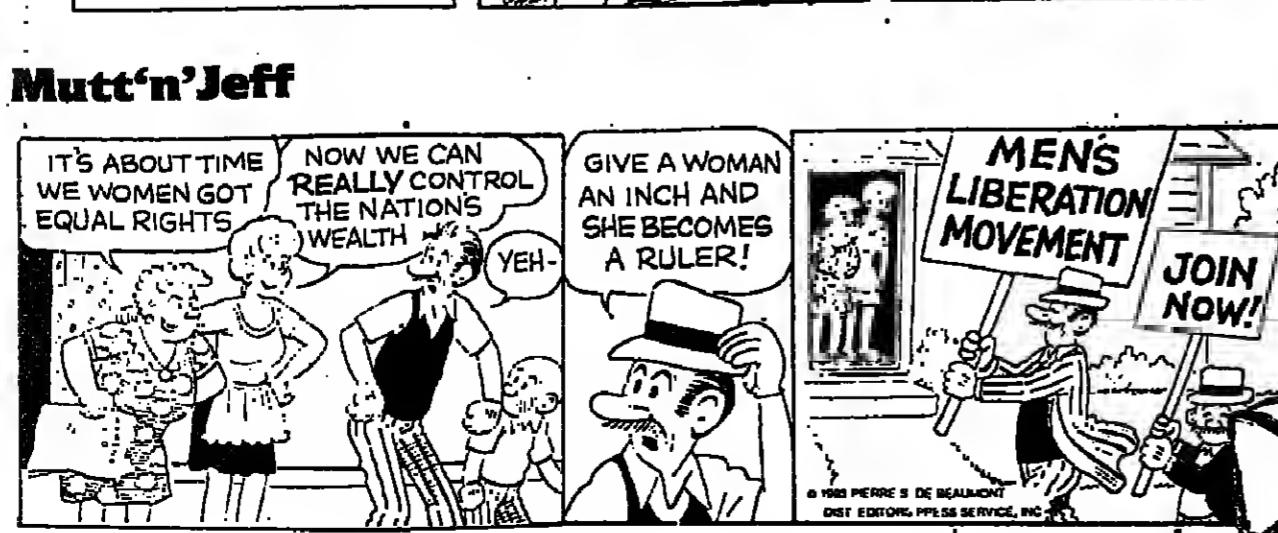
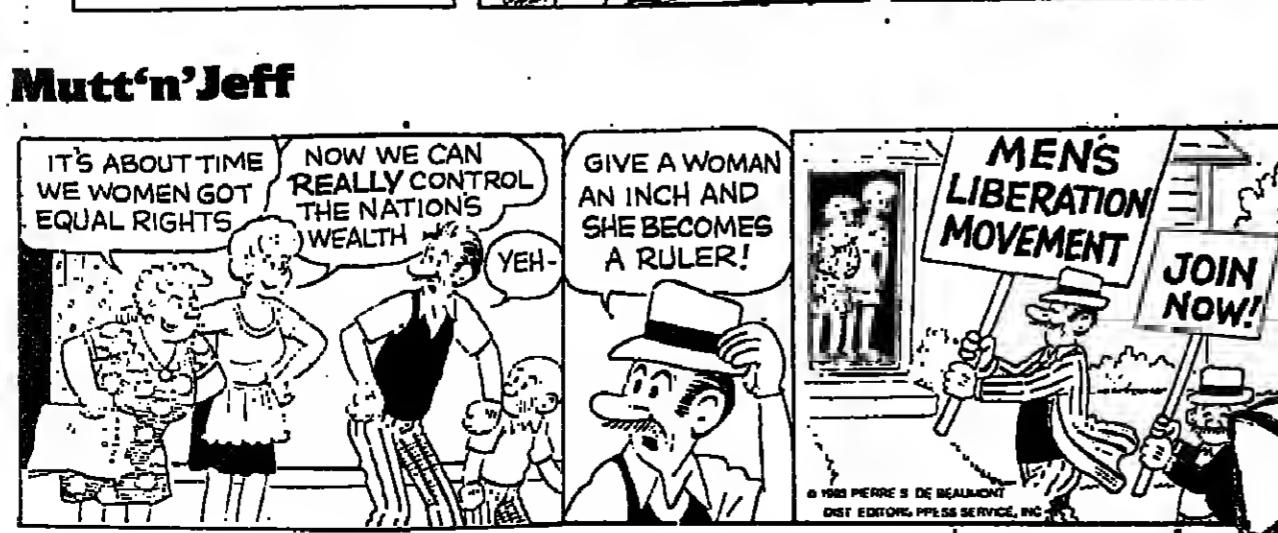
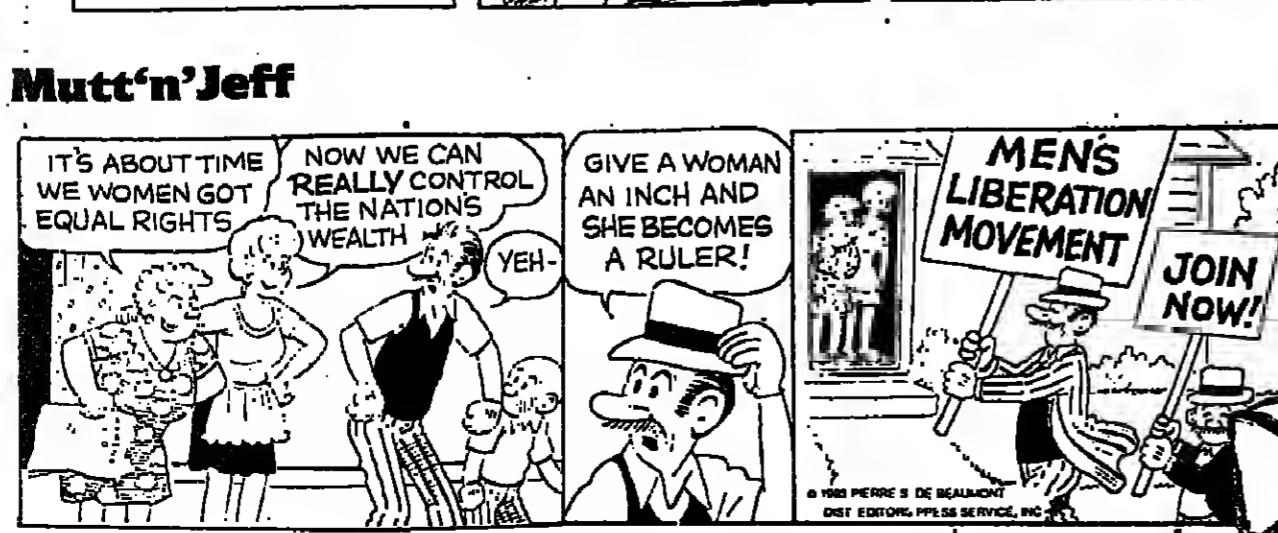
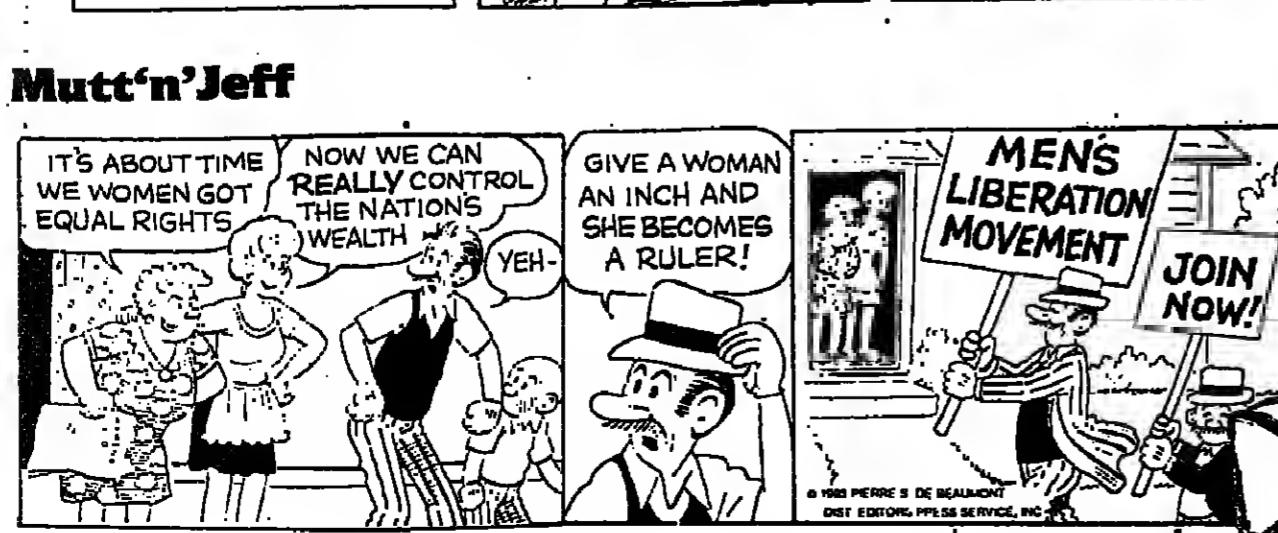
Answer: What the bank got from its favorable yield offer — HIGH INTEREST

## Horoscope not received

### THE Daily Crossword



## Peanuts



Financial Markets  
in co-operation with  
Calro Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close Date 5/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5415 1.5455
Deutsche Mark	1.5797 1.5771
Swiss Franc	1.3335 1.3310
French Franc	5.4090 5.4092**
Japanese Yen	100.20 100.44
European Currency Unit	1.2100 1.2099**

\* USD Per STC

\*\* European Opening at 1000 a.m. GMT

Non-residency Interest Rates				
Date: 8/8/1994				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.75	4.62	4.83	5.50
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.31	5.68	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.06	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.31	5.31	5.50	5.75
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.06	2.06	2.31
European Currency Unit	5.68	5.81	6.00	6.25

Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 8/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0700	1.0754
Deutsche Mark	0.4393	0.4415
Swiss Franc	0.5208	0.5234
French Franc	0.1285	0.1291
Japanese Yen	0.6908	0.6943
Dutch Guilder	0.3912	0.3932
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0441	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

\* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 8/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250	1.8420
Lebanese Lira	0.040355	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1847	0.1861
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1894	0.1917
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2250
Oman Riyal	1.7840	1.7990
UAE Dirham	0.1884	0.1893
Greek Drachma	0.2675	0.3085
Cypriot Pound	1.3745	1.4950

\* Per 100

## Arabs flock to Egypt, help reverse tourism decline

CAIRO (R) — The Arab tourists season has started in Egypt and this year they are back in force, filling hotels and boosting sales but upsetting some residents.

"Eighty per cent of our occupancy for the last few months has been citizens from Arab countries. Last year, it was much less," says Sheriff Ali, sales executive for the Cairo Sheraton, a five-star luxury hotel overlooking the Nile.

Staying for periods ranging from three days to three months, the tourists — mostly from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other countries in the Arabian Gulf — represent a hefty annual revenue to Egypt, which relies on tourism for a large part of its

foreign currency earnings.

This is the first season of recovery for the multi-million dollar industry since Muslim militants in 1992 launched a violent campaign targeting tourists in an attempt to wreck the economy and overthrow the government.

Most four and five-star hotels now boast 100 per cent occupancy rates, a five-fold increase since earlier this year.

For many Arabs, Egypt represents an Arabian "Paris", offering entertainment not available at home.

"We come here every summer to enjoy the theatre, the cinema and the night life. The Egyptians are fun people, and we always enjoy our time," said Mohammad

Saeed, a 23-year-old Saudi Arabian sporting fashionable sunglasses and a trendy haircut.

Frequenting gambling casinos and night-clubs, both outlawed by Islamic sharia law, or cruising down Cairo's main boulevards seems to be part of this enjoyment.

"They come down from their rented apartments and hang around waiting for friends or listening to music, watching the people go by. We do good business because they like to buy the latest tapes," said Ali Mohammad, a seller on Ahmad Abdul Aziz Street, a favourite haunt for younger tourists.

Another attraction for the

Arabs appears to be shopping. The newspaper Al Akbar said that 60 per cent of the total goods sold during the summer sales went to Arabs and they were spending five times as much as last year.

"The Egyptian cottons are very nice, so are the wood products. The prices are right too Europe as expensive as it is," said a Kuwaiti woman who did not want her name printed.

But hoteliers said the Arab, renowned big spenders, seemed to be more careful with their finances this year.

"No unnecessary room services expenses, no big meals

at the outlets this year. I guess they are being careful," Mr. Ali said.

Room rates at the five-star hotels they frequent range from \$130 to \$190 a night in a double room and minimum charges for night-clubs are at least 100 Egyptian pounds (\$30).

But the reasons some Egyptians dread the annual pilgrimage to Cairo have their roots in moral issues.

"God damn them they come for the liquor and the women and the police know what they are doing in those rented apartments that are no better than whorehouses but they let them go for the money they bring," he asked.

Samir Moursi, a taxi driver.

A resident of Agouza district expressed disgust at the sight of a man playing the flute as a young girl danced in the streets around his house to attract the Arabs.

But Hassan Ahmad, a taxi driver who posts himself in front of the Semiramis International with its 92 per cent Arab occupancy, had no objections to their presence.

"Let them come. They bring money for all of us. If someone will do something for money they will do it with whom ever has the money. Arab or European. Aren't we more deserving of their money than the European?" he asked.

## Shares of Saudi banks hit hardest in half year market fall

ABU DHABI (R) — Saudi bank shares were hardest hit in a market that saw its overall value slump by 30 per cent in the first half of this year while Saudi stock market is showing signs of recovery, economists said.

The overall index for the Gulf's biggest stock market fell to 128.80 points in the middle of July from 181.68 points in January. Bank shares lost almost half of their value.

Brokers predicted in April

By the end of July the 100-point overall index showed its first signs of recovery with a rise to 138.09 points but analysts said investors are still holding back.

"We have seen a case of a slight upward movement but we have not yet seen a full recovery," said Abdul Aziz Al Dukhail, president of Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment.

"The overall market is still waiting for a big push to take it upward from the downward level it found after the major drop in stock prices in April 1994," Sheikh

Dukhail said. "Basically it is limping on one leg. For the market to recover, there has to be confidence in oil prices. Higher government income triggers an upward market movement," he pointed out.

Of all the economic sectors, the index for the financial sector that is dominated by the banks recorded the biggest drop. It fell to 82.74 points in July from 154.44 in January.

A bank economist said the index for Saudi banks was down after 10 banks reported profitability fell 10 per cent in the second quarter.

"Because bond and equity markets are not doing very well in the West, that factor is impacting on the profitability this year of Saudi banks," said Saudi-based bank economist.

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs

1.3812/22	Canadian dollar
1.5825/35	Deutschmarks
1.7775/85	Dutch guilder
1.3337/47	Swiss francs
32.57/61	Belgian francs
5.4137/87	French francs
1.5763/78	Italian lire
100.85/99	Japanese yen
7.2624/64	Swedish crowns
6.9035/85	Norwegian crowns
6.2160/10	Danish crowns

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The possibility that as much as 27 million barrels of Iraqi oil could hit the market as a result of the flush — aimed at saving the pipeline from further corrosion — has haunted the oil market since it was first proposed months ago.

Oil prices peaked on Aug.

## Late surge earns Anton 10,000 metre title

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — After 25 laps it came down to a kicking duel. And that's where Spaniards, World Cup quarterfinalists, feel they have an advantage.

Abel Anton surged past Vincent Rousseau of Belgium with only 10 metres left Sunday to win the 10,000 metres at the European Athletics Championships by six tenths of a second.

The furious finish, in a personal best of 28 minutes, 6.03 seconds, earned the 31-year-old Spaniard his first medal in a major championship.

Rousseau, running his first 10,000 of the season, led the race coming into the stretch. But he couldn't answer Anton's final kick and settled with the silver medal.

"I knew during the last 2,000 metres that I would win," Anton said. "I was very happy with the track, which is not very fast."

"I benefitted from the slow pace. This victory is no surprise because I had faith in my sprint. I felt confident during the whole race because no one was prepared to commit themselves to a fast pace."

The latest big Spanish race victory came in the Barcelona Olympics two years ago, when Fermín Cacho used similar tactics to win the 1,500-metre gold medal.

Anton's best previous performance was a victory in the 10,000 metres at the 1987 European Cup finals.

An estimated crowd of 30,000 was on hand at Helsinki's renovated Olympic Stadium, including the former Finnish Long distance great Lasse Viren, who won Olympic gold medals in the 5,000 and 10,000 in the 1972 and 1976 summer games.

Rousseau was timed in 28:06.63 and Germany's Stéphane Franke, who barely missed a bronze medal in last year's World Championships, placed third in 28:07.95.

"It was a very close finish," Rousseau said. "But I couldn't do anything earlier. The wind was in my face on the backstraight, and I lost a lot of energy there. It was too

hot. I didn't like the conditions."

Earlier, Manuela Machado continued Portuguese women's winning marathon tradition, capturing the opening event in a relatively slow 2 hours, 29 minutes and 54 seconds.

Viktoria Pavlysh of the Ukraine captured the women's shot put, winning with a throw of 19.61 metres in the opening round of the competition. It was Ukraine's first medal in European Championship history.

Astrid Kumbernuss of Germany was second at 19.49 (63-11 1-2). She took the silver medal on a better throw over Svetla Mitkova of Bulgaria, who also threw 19.49 (63-11 1-2). Kumbernuss put 19.11 (62-8 1-2) on her sixth and last attempt to win the silver.

Machado's victory in hot and humid conditions gave the Portuguese a perfect record in women's marathon at the European Championships. Rosa Mota won the three first races in 1982, '86 and '90.

"Rosa Mota will be glad," Machado said after the finish at the Olympic Stadium. "It was the toughest race in my life. My pre-race plan was to try to speed it up at the halfway mark."

The victory also was a birthday present for Machado, who turns 31 on Tuesday.

Her previous best in a major marathon was a silver medal in last year's World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany. She was 10th in the 1990 European Championships.

Maria Curatolo of Italy finished second in 2:30.33 for her best career finish and Adriana Barbu of Romania was third in 2:30.55.

Ornella Ferrara, another Italian, placed fourth in 2:31.57.

Curatolo was the biggest surprise in the race, held before tens of thousands of people.

"I have never trained specifically for the marathon, so the result was a big surprise for me," Curatolo said. "I never hoped for the gold, but I just decided to put all I



France's 400m Olympic champion Marie-José Pérec on her way to easy victory in her heat of the event at the European Athletic Championships.

ships. The 24-year-old Guadeloupe athlete is currently based in the United States (AFP photo)

could in the race in any case."

In preliminaries of other event, Linford Christie, racing for the first time in more than three weeks, breezed into the semifinals of the men's 100 metres.

The British veteran, winner of the 100 in both the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and last year's World Championships, is trying to become the first man since Valery Borzov to win three straight European titles in sprinting's blue-ribbon event.

Borzov double for the Soviet Union at the 1972 summer olympics at Munich, Germany.

The semifinals and the final are set for Monday evening, in the women's 100, Tzanna Tarnopolskaya of Ukraine led all qualifiers into the semis with a fast 11.01

despite easing off at the finish.

Tarnopolskaya, who clocked 10.13 in the first round of qualifying, was just two hundredths off her seasonal best of 10.99.

European record-holder Irina Privalova of Russia had 11.20 during the evening session for the second fastest time. The women's semifinal and final are also scheduled Monday evening.

Olympic 800-metre champion Ellen van Langen sustained a hamstring injury early in the week.

## Zayak finds new times too tough

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — Former world champion Elaine Zayak revolutionised women's figure skating with arsenal of triple jumps in the early 1980s.

The 29-year-old American became so proficient at triples when she won the 1981 world title that the International Skating Union subsequently limited the number of jumps contestants could take in competition.

But today Zayak could not come close to breaking the rule for which she was responsible.

"Every girl out here can do a triple Lutz-double toe combo, but I can't anymore," Zayak said at the Goodwill Games which finished on Sunday.

The Goodwill Games were a bitter-sweet reminder for Zayak of the standards she set 13 years ago.

Skating under a dispensation allowing professionals to reenter the amateur ranks, the woman who could do eight triples in one programme before she turned professional in 1983 could barely manage two in her games' technical programme.

"These days, it's all just too tense," Zayak said. "You just have to go out there and jump or else it's all over."

After singling her double Axel and falling on a triple toe-loop, Zayak finished last in the competition.

But dreams die hard in a sport where ice princesses become icons of athleticism, grace and beauty.

Germany's twice Olympic champion Katarina Witt, the glamorous queen of figure skating in the 1980s, has faced similar disappointment in renewing her quest for the crown.

Once unequalled in her precision triples and sultry elegance, Witt could manage only eighth place in the world championships.

"Elaine and Katy might be able to pull it off if they trained really hard and got their weight under control," said twice Olympic champion Peggy Fleming. "But the pressure to do jumps today is just enormous."

The lone U.S. woman to return to amateur competition, Zayak is of the skating generation that spent half its time on compulsory figures.

Today those figures are a footnote in skating history, scrapped several years ago so that the new spiffies on ice could concentrate on perfection of their jumps.

The latest star, 14-year-old American Michelle Kwan, won the Goodwill Games silver medal by effortlessly turning out seven triples and two double axles.

Said Zayak: "I'm afraid to try all that now. It hurts when I fall."

In the former champion's heyday, the ritual discipline of brackets, counters and serpentine in compulsory figures offered a series of prelude to the high-pressure whirwind of freestyle.

"The compulsory figures relaxed you, calmed you down," Zayak said. "It was so much less nerve-wracking to jump after having patched. Now in free-style, it's do or die."

Zayak may have flopped, but she retains her dreams.

"I won the worlds in 1982 and nothing can replace that," she said. "But I'd rather not know too much and be young again and just go out here and skate."

## Regis out of 200 metres



HELSINKI (R) — Defending champion John Regis of Britain pulled out of the European Championships 200 metres on Monday after injuring his left Achilles tendon in training, a spokesman for the British team announced.

Regis, who ran a British record 19.87 seconds at the high altitude meeting in Sestriere, Italy on July 31, was the overwhelming favourite to win the gold to add to the four medals he collected at this event four years ago.

It is the second time in two days that the British team has lost a sprinter from these championships.

On Sunday, Solomon Wariso was withdrawn from the 200 metres after being positively tested for the banned stimulant ephedrine.

Team spokesman Tony Ward said: "As I understand it John damaged the tendon in training in Monte Carlo this morning. It is a huge blow to the team."

Speaking on BBC Radio from Monte Carlo, Regis said: "The physio has told me that with a week's treatment I should be fit for Zurich next week and the Commonwealth Games."

Mr. Kelly believes a spot remains for a four-yearly multi-sports global competition outside the Olympics.

"Eve when we talk about the proliferation of sports, there is still a place beyond the Olympic for another summer multi-sport event," he said.

"The federations don't want us to go away at all. They said to us 'we like the opportunity to have an event where our athletes can come together with other athletes and have an opportunity to be seen around the world,'" Mr. Kelly said.

Although Fredericks avenged that defeat in Monte Carlo last Tuesday, Regis was highly favoured to retain his title in Helsinki.

Egypt's Samir Gouda grabs the rebound from Germany's Henning Harnisch during the first half of their World Championship Basketball game at Maple Leaf Garden in Toronto, Canada (AFP photo)

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## Sloothaak wins show jumping gold

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Germany's Franke Sloothaak jumped four faultless rounds to win his first major show jumping title Sunday, beating Frenchman Michel Robert by just a half fault at the world equestrian games. Robert also completed the four-rider jump-off without knocking down a fence but incurred a half fault time penalty which cost him the gold. Robert's time fault came while he was riding Sloothaak's horse San Patrignano Weihaiwei in the second round of a jump off, in which riders mount their own horses and then ride each of the other competitor's. Germany's Soeren von Roenne earned the bronze after picking up just four faults. Another German, Ludger Beerbaum, came fourth with 12 faults. The show jumping completed a memorable games for Germany, which won seven golds, four silvers and five bronzes to top the medal table. France was second with a gold, four silvers and a bronze while the U.S. team was third with its endurance gold, two silvers and a

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# Sports

## Bremen beat Bayern Munich

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Michael Schultz scored in the 14th minute of extra time and New Zealand's Wynton Rufer added another 10 minutes later to give Werder Bremen a 3-1 victory over Bayern Munich on Sunday in the German Super Cup.

The victory spoiled the debut of coach Giovanni Trapattoni and striker Jean-Pierre Papin, both having come to the reigning German League champion from the Italian First Division.

The game, played between the reigning German League and cup champions, serves as an unofficial start to the German League season, which kicks off Aug. 20.

It was the second straight Super Cup victory for Bremen, which finished eighth in the Bundesliga season, eight points behind Bayern.

"This game gives me something to think about — we got a lesson from Werder Bremen," Trapattoni said.

Trapattoni, who left Juventus after leading it to a second-place finish in the Italian first division last season, takes over from Franz Beckenbauer, who guided Bayern to a record 13th Bundesliga title last season.

With the acquisition of players such as Papin from AC Milan and Swiss international Alain Sutter, Munich is hoping to regain the European Cup title, an honour it last won in 1976. It last went to the European Cup final in 1987.

Bremen played with 10 men following Oliver Kreuzer's



Bayern Munich's Alain Sutter (left) is challenged by Werder Bremen's Miroslav Votavek and Mario Basler (right) during their DFB (German Soccer Federation) Super Cup 1994 (AFP photo).

ejection in the 22nd minute for a professional foul on Bremen's Andreas Herzog as the midfielder closed on the Munich goal.

Bremen took the lead after only two minutes when Russian international Vladimir Bestchastchik scored a free kick.

The Swiss midfielder, already a focus of the team's offense, was taken to the

hospital with a possible torn ligament.

Bremen recovered in the second half, earning repeated scoring chances with slick combinations.

Bremen got a break in the first half when Thomas Helmer's free kick hit the crossbar.

It took another 55 minutes

## Morocco and Cameroon suffer football blows

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Morocco and Cameroon, still smarting from humiliating World Cup exits, suffered further blows to their football pride at the weekend.

Former winners Wydad Casablanca were eliminated from the African Champions' Cup after losing 2-0 away to AS Sogara of Gabon in the second round.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

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A LAST GASP

Neither vulnerable, West deals. NORTH  
♦ 4 3  
♦ A K 2  
♦ A 4  
♦ K Q J 10 9 8  
WEST EAST  
♦ Q J 10 9 8 ♦ 7 5 2  
♦ J 8 4 ♦ 7 8 5 3  
♦ A J 9 2 ♦ K 10 7  
♦ A ♦ 4 3 2  
SOUTH  
♦ A K 6  
♦ Q 10 9  
♦ Q 8 5 3  
♦ 7 6 5

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♦ 2 ♦ Pass 2 NT  
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦.  
We have often stressed the importance of counting — both tricks and points. That principle applies to the defenders as much as to declarer. It is a simple matter to count the tricks available to declarer. Note that South did not hang North for overcalling at the two-level. Despite 11 points and two stoppers in the enemy suit, South simply issued an invitation which North, on the strength of the good six-card suit and full values for the

Morocco lost to Belgium, Saudi Arabia and Holland — the worst performance by an African nation since Zaire flopped in the then West Germany 20 years ago.

Cameroon held Sweden in their opening match, but heavy defeats by Brazil and Russia ensured an early flight home for the Indomitable Lions.

Wydad, who in 1992 became the third Moroccan club to lift the Champions' Cup, were expected to overcome Sogara and reach the quarter-finals.

With five minutes left, Gabonese international Jonas Ogandaga put the seal on the biggest upset of the competition this year with a second goal.

But a shock 1-0 home defeat two weeks ago left them with a mountain to climb in Libreville, and the peak disappeared from their vision in the second half.

Cameroon held Sweden in their opening match, but heavy defeats by Brazil and Russia ensured an early flight home for the Indomitable Lions.

Nigerian Iyape Wasin, whose four goals helped the Port Gentil club reach the quarter-finals last year, converted a 50th minute penalty kick.

With five minutes left, Gabonese international Jonas Ogandaga put the seal on the biggest upset of the competition this year with a second goal.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Germany opens mission in Jericho

JERICHO (R) — Germany opened a mission in Jericho on Monday, becoming the first government to establish a representative office in the Palestinian self-rule area. Two German officials arrived in Jericho on Monday to oversee the opening of the mission. Workmen hung a nameplate on the building which read: "Representative office of the Federal Republic of Germany." The officials immediately went into a meeting with Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf. A spokesman at the German embassy in Tel Aviv said the mission was opened under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal which launched Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho three months ago. He said the mission, headed by a career diplomat, would oversee German technical and economic assistance to the Palestinian areas.

## Man hurt while handling explosives in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A man was slightly injured near Tel Aviv Sunday when an explosive device he was handling went off, police said. The man, whose identity was not revealed, injured his hand when he tried to throw a pipe filled with explosives out of his car window. Police caught him after he tried to flee the scene and began questioning him, the sources said.

## Thai police to seek arrest of two Saudis

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai chief of police Pratin Santiprapop said Monday he was seeking the arrest of two Saudi officials in connection with a five-year-old gems theft case. Mr. Pratin told reporters he had requested warrants for a Saudi embassy official and a Saudi police officer who was here during an investigation into the \$20 million jewel theft from a Saudi palace in 1989. A Thai servant was arrested on returning home and convicted of the theft, but not all of the jewels were returned to the owner, and much of what was returned was fake. There was evidence to indicate both Saudi officials had been accomplices in the disappearance of some of the gems, Mr. Pratin said. He did not elaborate. Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja cast doubt Monday on the allegations, saying Thai authorities were wasting time through such "manoeuvres" and should complete the investigation, which has dragged on for five years.

## 'Voice of Palestine' ends broadcasts from Algiers

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has ended its radio broadcasts from Algiers. "The voice of Palestine" had broadcast an hour a day over Algerian radio since 1966. PLO officials said Monday the exile station had been replaced by a Palestinian radio operating from the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the installation of a PLO-led Palestinian authority.

## Two Fins held by Kurdish sparats

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish separatist guerrillas kidnapped two Finnish tourists at the weekend after stopping their car in broad daylight at a roadside in southeastern Turkey, local officials said on Monday. The pair are still missing, but their car was recovered on Saturday along the highway between the provincial capital of Tunceli and the town of Pulumur in the largely Kurdish southeast, officials said. Turkish security officials identified the surnames of the two men as Hoikatainen, born in 1967, and Pollar, born in 1974. No other details were immediately available. A spokeswoman for the Finnish embassy confirmed the names but said she was awaiting further information from the Turkish foreign ministry.

## Gulf Air to resume flights to Sanaa

DUBAI (R) — Gulf air has decided to resume flights later this month to the Yemeni capital Sanaa, which were interrupted by Yemen's civil war, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) official news agency reported on Monday. The Emirates news agency quoted an official at Gulf Air, which is jointly owned by the government of Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and UAE member Abu Dhabi, as saying the airline would fly from Abu Dhabi to Sanaa twice a week. Regular commercial flights to Yemen were halted by a two-month civil war which ended in the defeat of southern secessionists on July 7.

## Kabul starts probe into journalist's murder

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has ordered an investigation into the July murder of an Afghan journalist, the president's special envoy Masood Khalili said here Monday. "We have initiated the investigation following a request from Amnesty International," Khalili told reporters here. The journalist, Mr. Wasil Jalil, 25, who was working with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Kabul, was abducted on July 29 by unidentified gunmen while returning from an interview with Mr. Rabbani's rival Gulhuddin Hekmatyar. His body was found the next day in Kabul's Chelstoon suburb, which is mainly controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami forces. A Hezb statement in Pakistan blamed the killing on Mr. Rabbani's secret service, saying the motive for the murder was in desecration of Mr. Hekmatyar's party.

## PLO security chief returns to Jericho

JERICHO (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official returned to the West Bank after years of exile on Monday to take charge of national security in the Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, witnesses said. Hakan Balawi, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's appointee to head Palestinian national security with the rank of a cabinet member, crossed the King Hussein Bridge from Jordan to Jericho where he was welcomed by PLO officials and relatives. PLO officials have been trickling home to manage Gaza and Jericho since Israel turned the areas over in May under terms of a peace deal with the PLO. Mr. Arafat himself has lived in Gaza since July.

## Velayati calls for closer ties with India

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati called Monday for boosting relations and cooperation with India during a meeting with an Indian Muslim leader, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. Mr. Velayati, in the meeting with Seyyed Abdullah Bukhari, praised existing cooperation between the two countries and called for an exchange of high-level delegations. "Such exchanges would have positive impact on the expansion of mutual ties," he said calling also for Muslim shrines, praised Iran's "contributions in establishing unity" among the world's Shiite and Sunni Muslims, IRNA said. "The enemies of Islam are trying to sow discord among Muslims," warned the prayer leader of New Delhi's main mosque.

## Eight killed in floods in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Eight southern Sudanese were killed in floods that swept through a refugee camp near the capital Khartoum, a local newspaper said on Monday. The state-owned English-language New Horizon said torrential rains had destroyed many homes across Sudan in recent days. The eight died in Jabal Aulia camp, which houses southern Sudanese refugees some 45 kilometres south of Khartoum, after heavy rains in Khartoum last week and flooding into the camp from the Managil canal to the southeast. Some 120 dwellings were destroyed and 26,000 families exposed to water-borne diseases and malaria, New Horizon said. The paper said the worst affected by the rains were those who had been forcefully removed from squatter camps in Khartoum and sent to Jabal Aulia.



His Majesty King Hussein, flanked by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State, addresses a joint press conference in Aqaba on Monday (Petra photo)

## High-level PLO team said due here in 10 days

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials returned to Jericho on Monday after preparing for the visit of a high-level team to Jordan in the next 10 days for talks on Jerusalem and other outstanding issues related to economy and security, Palestinian sources said.

They said the aim of the visit by Yasser Arafat, "minister" of information in the Palestinian self-rule territories of Gaza and Jericho, and Faisal Husseini, also a member of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), was to pave the way for a visit of a PLO team at "ministerial level" to discuss the issues.

The delegation discussed arrangements for the visit, which should take place in the next 10 days, a Palestinian source told the Jordan Times. According to the source, the PLO delegation will also discuss "economic and security issues" — a reference to the outstanding economic cooperation agreement which PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has declined to ratify.

No Jordanian comment was immediately available.

Omar Khathith, the acting chief of the PLO mission here, confirmed in comments carried by the AP that Mr. Arafat and Mr. Husseini also discussed economic and security cooperation with Mr. Hassan.

The PLO delegation's visit came against the backdrop of a controversy sparked by the

PLO over Israel's acknowledgement of Jordan's historical role as guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem.

In talks with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Husseini on Sunday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Hassan reaffirmed Jordan's stand "over the issue of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the continued Hashemite Jordanian role in exercising religious jurisdiction over them."

According to Palestinian sources, the PLO leadership is divided over the issue: One school of thought acknowledges the validity of the Jordanian argument and would like a quite approach to the issue in tandem with the Kingdom. Another sees the Israeli move as a subterfuge to undermine the Palestinian claim to Jerusalem.

The second school, which is headed by Mr. Arafat, believes in making as much noise as possible over the issue," said one Palestinian source.

"The first, which includes mostly pro-Jordanians in the self-rule authority, mainly in the middle level, is arguing that a joint approach with Jordan towards the issue will be the most productive."

The PLO chairman also accused Mr. Rabin of violating the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement and demanded immediate negotiations on the status of Jerusalem. The autonomy accord puts off discussions on the final status of the Holy City until 1996.

Mr. Rabin rejected Mr. Arafat's demand but reiterated his commitment to negotiate the status of Jerusalem as secretary-general of the PNA.

## Opposition parties continue to assail moves for peace

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition parties on Monday urged Jordanians to employ all available resources to abort what they called "a dangerous conspiracy which aims at normalising relations with the enemy ... endangering the sovereignty and independence of the state."

In a statement issued to protest the opening of a crossing point between Aqaba and Eilat, eight opposition parties condemned the "unjustified eagerness and racing towards normalisation with the Zionist enemy."

The opposition eight, which include the Islamic Action Front (IAF), and leftists and Pan-Arabist parties, claimed that the steps that Jordan and Israel took in the past days go beyond what a separate peace treaty with Israel would have led to despite the government's assurances that no such treaty had been reached.

"What happened in Wadi Araba and what the people watched on television: The opening of the new crossing point between Aqaba and Eilat ... the hugging and handshakes between generals and retired officers from both (countries) ... (and) equating our martyrs with their killed ones ... reflect a determination to destroy what is left of the feeling among our people that (the Israelis) are our enemies," the parties said in the statement.

What is regrettable, they said, is that the government is moving ahead in implementing agreements it reached with Israel in secret and open negotiations "in a race with time before many awake from the shock of all that has happened."

Rejecting all the steps taken by the government towards "normalisation," the opposition parties protested "welcoming the enemies and their leaders on our land before we regain our usurped rights in our land and body places."

The statement was issued one day after representatives of the opposition met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who said Jordan was making substantial progress to regain its rights in land and water in its talks with Israel.

Dr. Majali said the government respects the viewpoint of the parties but stressed the need to abide by the law and the Constitution in expressing political views.

The opposition eight had earlier demanded that the government "return to the people" to find out where they stand on the peace talks with Israel, claiming that the majority of Jordanians are opposed to the new developments in the negotiations with the Jewish state. They also accused the government of ignoring public opinion, which they said rejects the peace talks by a majority.

Supporters of the peace process, however, tossed away the opposition claim

that most Jordanians are against the peace talks.

They cited the normalcy of life in the Kingdom during the talks and the expression of support for the negotiations by the majority of members of the Lower House of Parliament as a proof that the opposition's claim to representation of the majority of Jordanians is groundless.

The opposition to the talks has thus far been mainly expressed through statements issued by the opposition eight.

The IAF, which leads the opposition, has pledged to resist the talks through legal and constitutional means and according to a programme its leadership has agreed on.

Some IAF deputies, however, were recently questioned by the prosecutor general for "violating the law" in Friday sermons. The case ended after the IAF met with government officials and agreed to restrict its opposition to the talks to "constitutional ways."

A sit-in in downtown Amman on July 25, when His Majesty King Hussein met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington, was the only step taken by the opposition parties to demonstrate public rejection of the talks. But the sit-in was attended by about 200 people and lasted for two hours.

IAF sources said that the governor of Amman rejected a request to organise a rally in opposition of the talks on Aug. 12.

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